



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

Key Stage 4 Newsletter

Autumn Term – December 2021

Attitude Determines Altitude

Key Dates / Events Calendar	
Holiday: Monday 20 December 2021 – Tuesday 4 January 2022	Christmas Holiday
Tuesday 4 January 2022 – Friday 11 February 2022	Term 3
Return to school – Covid Testing	Tuesday 4th January Year 11 9.30am-12.30pm Year 10 1pm-3.30pm
Return to school – Normal School Day	Wednesday 5 th January 2022 at 9.40am
Year 10 Formal Examinations	Monday 10 th January 2022 to Friday 14 th January 2022
Year 11 Formal Examinations	Monday 10 th January 2022 to Thursday 20 th January 2022
Year 11 Parent-Teacher Evening	Wednesday 8 th February 2022

Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have finally reached the end of what has been a very busy autumn term. We would like to thank you for your ongoing support and it was a pleasure seeing so many of you at the recent parents' evening. The partnership between home and school is such an important part of

developing our pupils and we are extremely grateful for your attendance and support.

As usual, there have been some wonderful achievements and highlights this term, and Platanos College continues to demonstrate that it has some truly remarkable young people.

Attitude Determines Altitude

Platanos College, Clapham Road, London, SW9 0AL

Tel: 020 7733 6156 | E-mail: info@platanoscollege.com | Web: www.platanoscollege.com

Executive Headteacher: Ms J. Tapper CBE FRSA MA NPQH

Firstly, I would like to commend our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils on their commitment and maturity throughout the mock exam period. Our pupils were focused and positive throughout and conducted themselves very well.

Mock exams are always an important part of GCSE examination preparation. It provides a great opportunity for our pupils to demonstrate the progress that they have made and for them to have honest conversations with their teachers about how they can improve further. The next set of mock examinations is in January 2022.

Finally, we hope you have a wonderful holiday and enjoy spending quality time with your family. Please stay safe and well and we look forward to welcoming our pupils back for the start of the spring term in January 2022.

Year 11 Parent Evening & Careers Fair



Key stage 4 Pupil Leadership Team



We have had a really busy start to our new academic year with much to celebrate and be proud of. A Huge congratulation to our newly elected Key stage 4 Pupil Leadership Team for the Academic Year 2021-22.

The team will be led by our Head Boy Reuben Bowes and Head Girl Sihan Ahmed along with Deputy Head Girl Asmaa Otmani, Deputy Head Boys Ramey Mitchell, Levaan Baiden and their Senior Prefect team.



**Head Boy
Reuben Bowes**



**Head Girl
Sihan Ahmed**



**Deputy Head Boy
Ramey Mitchell**

**Deputy Head Boy
Levaan Baiden**



Prefect Team 2021- 2022

At Platanos College, we place great importance on developing young leaders and whole-heartedly value the work of our pupil leadership team. We appreciate that many of our young people have outstanding leadership potential and, throughout their school career, we provide the opportunities for them to develop

leadership qualities and skills coupled with a sense of social responsibility.

We are incredibly proud of the new pupil leadership team and wish them all the best in their new roles.

Senior Prefects

- Sofia Pires
- Kaelee Daley
- Yoela Rios
- Keyana Richards
- Emily Teixeira De Aveiro
- Fatama Fofonah
- Fatama Timbo
- Aryanna Jahanbani
- Honour Bailey
- Khiara Jarrin Herrera
- Chukwuebuka Olisaedu
- Joshua Zack
- Theo McLean
- Eniola Omonjo
- Keiyana Brissett

Prefect

- Melek Gulen
- Eliie Hopkins
- Tego Porcu
- Benjamin Adubofour Jnr.
- Victoria Amanda Myers Neal
- Paul Da Silva
- Thalia Aguilar Ramirez
- Victoria Amanda Myers Neal
- Nada Said
- Ondre Xavier-Foster
- Kanye Nyambe

Year 10 Trainee Leaders

- Anastasia Shovkoplyas
- Imogen Bowes
- Keightley Tran
- Enoch Duguma
- Dylam Tham
- Mohammed Hoque
- Pelumi Olasupo
- Mert Aydin
- Peter Curtis
- Betul Karkin

Khadeeja Malik Ahmed
Tasnia Ali
Reezah Donaldson
Maryrose Appah
Abdul Malik Bah
Sashaya Chambers
Tarek Ouzane
Olive Oguejiofor
Boluwatife Coker
Molly Beaton
Ephraim Mwanzo
Tainara Santos
Mohammed Ali

Year 10 Kew Gardens Photography Trip

In September for Photography, we were lucky enough to have a trip to Kew Gardens to help us with our current photography topic, 'Patterns in Nature'. We were able to not only admire the interesting plants and intricate patterns and shapes, but also take photographs of them for our coursework and enhance our skills. I believe this trip has helped all of us to experiment with a different style of photography outside the classroom which most of us have not had the opportunities to do so before. I particularly enjoyed the trip as I was able to continue to create photography inspired my chosen photographer Andy Small.

Imogen: Year 10 Photography Student

Examples of the photographs taken by Year 10 GCSE Photography students:



I felt that the Kew Gardens trip enabled me to take photographs of patterns in nature freely with close to no limitations. We were also able to take photographs of more exotic flowers that I have never seen before. I used the 'macro' settings on my camera to get more close-up shots of the details. I am thankful for this opportunity.

Emily: Year 10 Photography Student



Platform+ STEM sessions at Westminster School

During the Spring and Summer terms of 2021 a small number of our Year 10 pupils were selected to take part in the prestigious STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) programme run by Westminster College.

The pupils; Reuben, Leisha, Ebuka and Jessica, participated in remote learning sessions on Saturdays across the two terms. These sessions enabled pupils to learn in more depth about the different STEM subjects alongside pupils from schools across London. This allowed for high level discussions and a focus on the more challenging aspects of STEM through engagement with like-minded pupils.

This learning culminated in all four pupils presenting projects based on their learning across the sessions to the session leaders and all participants. The projects included: The history of Chemistry, iPhone science and 'How to

become a champion'. These projects empowered pupils to partake in independent learning, explore their A-Level subject choices and develop their presentation skills.

Pupils were overwhelmingly positive about the programme. This was clear from our evaluation in which pupils agreed that it was both enjoyable and thought provoking. Pupils commented on their experiences below:

"It has given me a detailed understanding of science subjects and I have learnt to better my discussion skills" – Jessica.

"Once we were able to go into the school it gave me an insight into sixth form life and it was fun to meet new people from different places." – Leisha.

"The experience provided me with the opportunity to converse with and learn alongside pupils from other schools which reinforced prior learning." – Reuben.

"I enjoyed the STEM programme as it gave me an insight into deeper areas of different subjects allowing me to develop my understanding of various sciences. I am sure this will be beneficial in the future." - Ebuka

We are very proud of the work that our pupils put into this programme, we received excellent feedback from Westminster College pertaining to both the work ethic and ethos of our pupils. Well done for being excellent representatives of Platanos College.



**The Worshipful Company of Fuellers
Future Energy Conference**

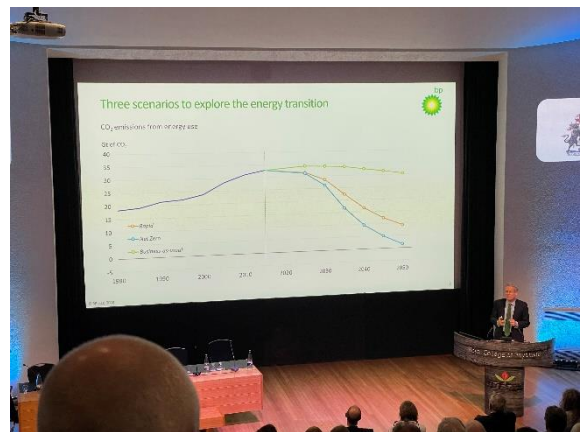
The Worshipful Company of Fuellers held its second Future Energy Conference on Monday 15th November 2021. The conference was attended by many industry and energy experts, as well as Carrie Marsh (Master Fueller) and His Royal Highness Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex.

As Platanos College is supported by the Fuellers' Charitable Trust, our pupils were invited to expand their understanding of the industry, including how it will progress further, and the importance of the industry on future climate change.



Given that COP26 had concluded just a week before, it was exciting for our pupils to be in attendance where the momentum of future energies in reaching carbon net-zero was clear. Many talks, along with

various Q&A sessions, allowed everyone to see how energy may and will need to change in the next decades. Panelists were challenged with demanding questions, including when and how net-zero targets can be met, the logistics behind making these targets and on how important it is for countries like our own are needed to support less financially profitable countries in reducing their carbon emissions. A recurring theme was identifying what is necessary to decarbonise various sectors and improve the use of renewable energy.



In addition to the fascinating panels and interesting Q&As, pupils were able to observe elements of the energy industry in action as several presentations were shown as part of a competition amongst young professionals for the conference.

All of our pupils were very much impressed by each presentation, and the ambition, skill and knowledge shown by every panelist as they set out their plans and goals on the journey to net-zero carbon emissions.

We would like to thank the Worshipful Company of the Fuellers for inviting our pupils to this conference. Our pupils were left inspired and hopeful in how industry will change in the coming years.



Anti-Bullying Week



Monday 15th November 2021 marked the start of Anti-Bullying week at Platanos College.

Anti-Bullying Week is an annual UK event in the third week in November which aims to raise awareness of bullying of children and young people, in schools and elsewhere, and to highlight ways of preventing and responding to it.

The year the week began with a Whole school assembly which introduced this year's Anti-Bullying theme of "One Kind Word". One Kind Word underlines how little acts of consideration can break down barriers and brighten the lives of the people around us.

All of Key Stage 4 had further Anti-Bullying assemblies which looked deeper into bullying. The assemblies focussed on the impact of Cyber-Bullying on people's lives and how to be safer and appropriate

on the internet. Also, during the assemblies, the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors spoke of their reasons why they wanted to be an Anti-Bullying Ambassador and their ambition to be successful in their role.

To close Anti-Bullying week, the whole school community, pupils and staff were invited to wear odd socks as a way to celebrate individual differences and creativity.

CHABOP – Pupils' Achievements



Congratulations to all our autumn term CHABOP prize draw winners.

Year 10 prize draw winners

Redwan Jaaffer: 100% Attendance and Punctuality Draw

Ahmad Sedeqi: 500-999 Merits Prize Draw

Bailey Roopnarine: 1000-1499 Merits Prize Draw

Kingsley Mclean: 1500-1999 Merits Prize Draw

Pelumi Olasupo - Top CHABOP Points for Term Winner (2045 Net Merits)

Year 11 prize draw winners

Capri O'Connor-Palangafkan: 100% Attendance & Punctuality Draw

Leon Ferati: 500- 999 Merits Prize Draw

Kemi Kehinde: 1000- 1499 Merits Prize Draw

Deqa Haji Ali: 1500- 1999 Merits Prize Draw

Kaelee Daley: 2000 + Merits Prize Draw
Levaan Baiden: Top CHABOP Points for Term Winner (2265 Net Merits)

The following pupils have achieved the highest CHABOP points in Key Stage 4 and are true examples that ATTITUDE DETERMINES ALTITUDE.



Top 10 Year 10s	Total Net Merits
1. Pelumi Olasupo	2045
2. Maryrose Appah	1990
3. Bushra Amanullah	1895
4. Mohammed Hoque	1885
5. Tarek Ouzane	1855
6. Nicandro Carvalho Mendonca	1840
7. Mert Aydin	1805
8. Syrin Abdessalem	1790
9. James Phillip	1715
10. Soufiane Mouchkat	1710

Top 10 Year 11s	Total Net Merits
1. Levaan Baiden	2265
2. Kaelee Daley	2245
3. Chukwuebuka Olisaedu	2230
4. Eniola Omonjo	2165
5. Benjamin Adubofour Jr.	2145
6. Honour Bailey	2090

7. Asmaa Otmani	2085
8. Reuben Bowes	2055
9. Jehan Kelifa	2040
10. Fatmata Fofanah	1995

Careers Interviews

The landscape of career choices is complex and constantly changing. Therefore, it is vital that all our Year 11 pupils have the knowledge and skills they need to make informed choices regarding their career's pathway.

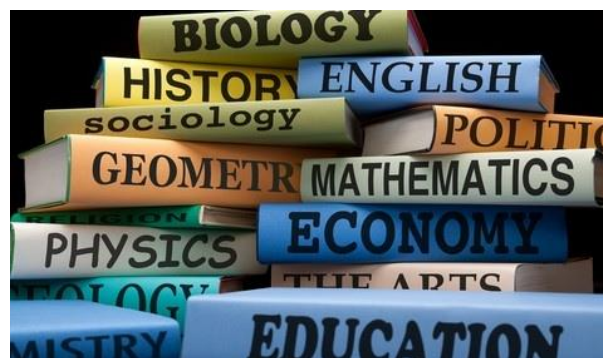
To date, the majority of Year 11 pupils have met with the careers advisor for their one-to-one interviews.

They were given impartial information and guidance to help identify a range of post-16 options, careers advice and useful support networks to help them plan and negotiate their career pathways.

All pupils were also given a copy of their careers action plan and parents and carers were sent a copy by post. We are keen to involve parents and carers in this process and we suggest that you look carefully at the action plan and discuss it with your child.

We will also continue to provide our year 11 pupils with lists of virtual open days for all local Colleges and Sixth Forms.

College References & Applications



As our Year 11 pupils continue to apply to colleges and sixth-forms, please note that references must be directed to ks4pastoral@platanoscollege.com.

While some colleges and sixth-forms schools still offer the option of a paper application, the majority of applications submitted now are completed online. As such, it is imperative that you encourage your child to proofread their online application and check it thoroughly for any mistakes before hitting the submit button. Equally, parents and carers are also encouraged to actively get involved in their child's college application process as this could be particularly daunting for some pupils.

It is worth noting that the level of course your child can apply for will vary depending on your child's predicted grades (which are readily available on your child's most recent academic report.)

If you are you are your child is unsure of their predicted grades, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Edwards at ks4pastoral@platanoscollege.com

Post 16 pathways courses will vary significantly in depth and breadth, with options available to meet the needs of all pupils. Some courses are very practical and skillset based (i.e. vocational courses like BTEC's Apprenticeships, Traineeships etc.), whilst others are more exam based.

Punctuality to school

Disappointedly, we still have a minority of pupils who arrive to school late.

This will significantly impact on Year 11 pupils as punctuality records form part of references passed onto colleges and sixth-forms.

For our Year 10 pupils, this is equally important as they get prepared for their induction into the world of work and work experience.

Please support us in maintaining good punctuality by:-

- Ensuring your child gets enough sleep and gets up promptly for school.
- Ensuring your child has organised their school bag and equipment the night before so that this does not delay departure in the morning.
- Addressing punctuality concerns raised by the school (via punctuality letters) and discussing the importance of punctuality in the workplace and life beyond Platanos College.

We thank you in anticipation of your support.

E-Learning expectations

As we make increasing use of e-learning resources (Google Classroom, Show My Homework, Seneca Learning and ixl.com) to support our pupils' learning at school and home, we would like to encourage parent and carers to take a proactive role in monitoring their child's online activities.

Please ensure that your child behaves appropriately when accessing any of our Zoom and Goggle Classroom lessons and encourage them to actively access and participate with all scheduled online lessons or interventions.

This is particularly important for our Year 11 pupils as they work towards their GCSE examinations.

Equipment

As we continue to work hard to keep our school community safe as possible from Covid-19, please ensure that your child

continues to attend school with their face covering.

It is vitally important that pupils wear face masks in communal areas around school, unless medically exempt. By doing so, they are protecting themselves, other pupils, members of staff and their families.

Pupils must also remember to bring all their school equipment to school. We will not be lending out equipment, as per public health guidelines.

The following items are absolutely essential for all pupils and will be needed at all times:

- A sensible school bag
- A blue/ black pen (with spares)
- A ruler
- A pencil and pencil sharpener
- An eraser
- A Maths scientific calculator
- A dictionary

Many thanks in advance for your support with this.

Uniform

Please ensure that your child has the correct 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 January with breaches of school uniform will be sent home until this is corrected.

Contact Details

Please can we remind you that it is extremely important that we have up to date contact information for all parents and carers. If there are any changes to address, parental contact telephone numbers or emails, please let us know by inform the main office as soon as possible or email info@platanoscollege.com

Term Dates

Term 3

Tuesday 4th January 2022 – Friday 11th February 2022

February Half term Holiday

Monday 14th February 2022 – Friday 18th February 2022

Term 4

Monday 21st February 2022 – Friday 1st April 2022

Easter Holiday

Monday 4th April 2022 – Monday 18th April 2022

Term 5

Tuesday 19th April 2022 – Friday 27th May 2022

May Half term Holiday

Monday 30th May 2022 – Friday 3rd June 2022

Term 6

Monday 6th June 2022 – Friday 22nd July 2022

Twitter

We are on Twitter! If you want to see our latest successes as they happen follow us @platanoscollege.
#attitudedeterminesaltitude
