



Autumn 2013

“...An outstanding school...” - OFSTED

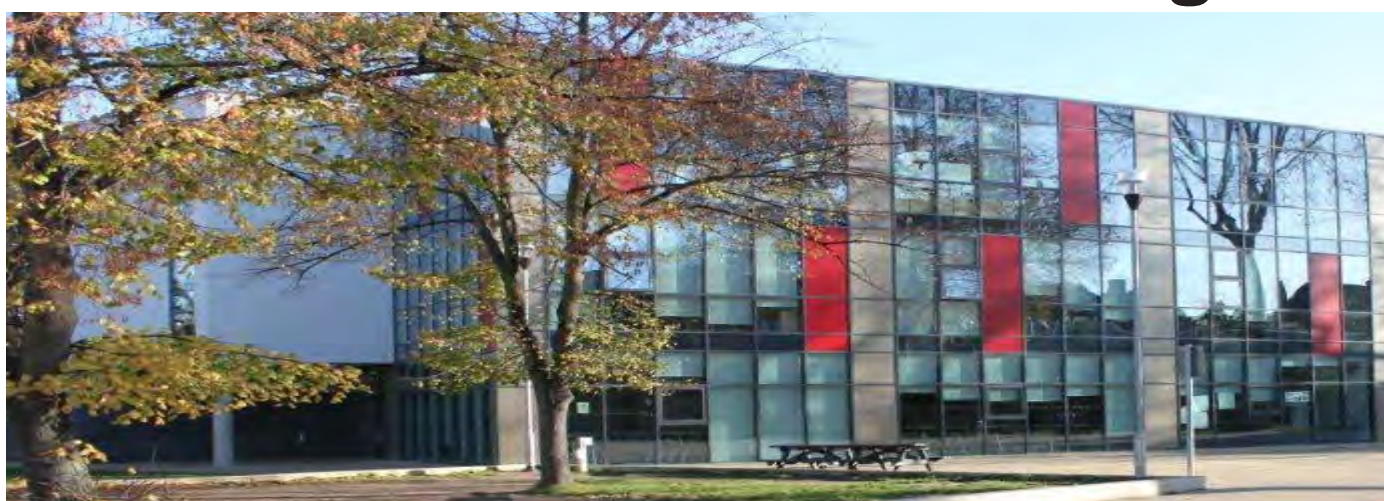
THE PLATANOS COLLEGE

# Achievement

MAGAZINE

# Platanos College

## One of the Best Schools in England



Platanos College was recently named as one of the best schools in the country by the Sutton Trust following an analysis of the 500 top-performing schools in England.

The Sutton Trust is an educational charity and think-tank that has conducted over 100 research studies and educational programmes to improve educational disadvantages nationwide.

Recent research by the Sutton Trust revealed that many top-performing schools were socially exclusive as a result of their locality, but Platanos College bucked this trend. The report suggested that growing gaps in household income, the location and admission arrangements of many top-performing schools mean that a proportion of children from disadvantaged backgrounds are being denied access to these schools.

The report, however, highlighted that Platanos College was one of the very few schools that was not socially exclusive. In fact, the research revealed that Platanos College was in the top 5% of those top-performing schools in England with a significant proportion of pupils above the national and local average attaining good GCSE results regardless of their social background.

We are extremely proud of the national recognition that Platanos College has recently received. Our Headteacher, Ms Tapper, said: “We simply continue to work with pupils regardless of where they start. We have an unshakeable belief in our pupils. Our simple yet effective systems have to be refined each year. The sharp focus on learning and teaching as well as data tracking builds on this unshakeable belief in our pupils.”



## THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

# Outstanding Performance

Platanos College was congratulated by the Minister for Schools, David Laws MP (Department for Education), for its excellent performance in the new 2012 Similar Schools Performance Tables published this year. We are one of the top performing schools in England on this measure. These tables compare schools against those with near identical intakes and Platanos College stood out in two ways. Firstly, we were ranked number one in the table. Secondly, over 10% more of our pupils achieved five good GCSEs including English and Maths than is typical of a school of our intake.

An excellent achievement for Platanos College.



## Grammar School Pathway Exams

Our end of term Grammar School Pathway tests were well organised this year. Results showed that our pupils prepared and revised for the tests with care. Most importantly, pupils understood the significance of the tests and the need to improve their attainment levels.

We are especially pleased that pupils in Year 7, who were new to the GSP tests, worked very hard and were well behaved.





# THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

## Top Achievers 2013

We would like to congratulate all of our pupils for their excellent GCSE results last year. The following pupils achieved the highest grades (A/A\* grades):

**Chaza Abdiche**  
**Hussein Addeh**  
**Nahida Ali**  
**Shanae Bedford**  
**Farhana Begum**  
**Melissa Branco**  
**Breno Cancellieri**

**Aliyah Davies**  
**Samiya Dirie**  
**Ladan Elmi**  
**Emma Freitas**  
**Joel Idahosa**  
**Esther Lee**  
**Ranya Manar**

**Nazoo Mangal**  
**Munir Mussa**  
**David Okonski**  
**Ruben Pereira**  
**Lauren Rafferty**  
**Ruhena Rahman**  
**Hamisha Salih**

**Irina Santos**  
**Parleen Sethi**  
**Sania Sidduqi**  
**Daniela Tanganhito**  
**Toni-Ann Thomas**  
**Sagal Yassien**

## Graduation 2013

The Graduation Evening in July reflected a successful year for our Year 11s of 2013. The evening was a wonderful occasion with achievement awards presented by our Headteacher and Chair of Governors.

Pupils were awarded for their attainment and progress in various subjects. Two special awards, the Guy Lee Achievement Award and the Elizabeth Oweradaba Achievement Award, were awarded to the following two pupils:



*Award Winners: Ruben Pereira and Esther Lee*

**Esther Lee** (Guy Lee Achievement Award)

**Ruben Pereira** (Elizabeth Oweradaba Achievement Award)

The evening concluded with a special graduation dinner at the Croydon Park Hotel. Our Prom King and Queen this year was Ruben Pereira and Shanae Bedford.



***Well done and congratulations to the Graduates of 2013***

# THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

## Achievement Assemblies

Our Achievement Assemblies focus on pupils who gain the most merit points for CHABOP (CHABOP stands for Classwork, Homework, Attendance, Behaviour Organisation and Punctuality). The assemblies were hosted by the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors, Mr. Alabi. We are pleased to report an increase in the number of pupils awarded for their outstanding efforts this year.

The following pupils were awarded for their outstanding achievements:



Top 3 CHABOP Winners  
Year 7  
**Leandro Matias Da Silva**  
**Ricardo Gordon**  
**Ryan Aoki**

Top 3 CHABOP Winners  
Year 8  
**Ma Meco Tesoro,**  
**Abdul-Bari Mughal**  
**Nikita Brown**

Top 3 CHABOP Winners  
Year 9  
**Genielle Dearne**  
**Milena Tekle (Joint 2nd)**  
**Toni L'Ouverture (Joint 2nd)**



100% Attendance & Punctuality Award Winners  
**Margardia Monteiro**  
**Ricardo Martins**

Pastoral Manager's Award  
Year 7  
**Jessica Broadhurst**

Pastoral Manager's Award  
Year 8  
**Julie Dao**



Pastoral Manager's Award  
Year 9  
**Maklit Hannah**

Pastoral Citizenship Award for Outstanding  
Contributions to the School Community  
**Maklit Hannah**

Congratulations also go to Hannah Lee (Year 11 CHABOP Winner)  
and  
Joao Albuquerque (Outstanding Prefect)



# THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

## Jack Petchey Achievement Awards 2013



Platanos College participates in the Jack Petchey Achievement Award Scheme, which aims to recognise, reward and celebrate the achievements of our pupils.

The scheme recognises a wide range of achievements and young people themselves are involved in nominating and selecting the winners.

This academic year, several Platanos College pupils were recipients of numerous Jack Petchey Achievement Awards. The awards ceremony took place at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre.



Jack Petchey Winners  
(left to right) Special Rose Brisefert, Faiyaz Khan, Maklit Hannah, Eniola Edusi and Connor Hopkins with the Deputy Mayor of Lambeth, Adedamola Aminu.

## *Well done to our Jack Petchey winners*

# Jack Petchey Speak Out Awards 2013



Shana Kay Harwood with the Mayor of Lambeth



Patrick Ballesteros delivering his winning speech

At Platanos College we place an immense value on debating and public speaking, as we believe this provides our most able pupils with intellectual stimulation outside of the classroom, which facilitates the development of higher order thinking skills.

Last year, our Year 10 pupils attended the Jack Petchey Public Speaking “Speak Out” Workshop, an annual programme run by the school to support our Year 10 pupils in achieving the top A/A\* GCSE grades in English.

Shana Kay Harwood and Patrick Ballesteros, the winners of our Year 10 “Speak Out” school competition, were invited to take part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Lambeth Finals, which they also won.

Sally Benton, Regional Co-ordinator and Associate Trainer for the Speaker Trust, speaking after the event was full of praise and admiration: *“Thank you so much for bringing the pupils along tonight and for your continued support of the project. Huge congratulations to Shana Kay and especially to Patrick - they both gave extremely confident, well structured and self assured speeches.”*

Both pupils have truly done us proud and we are delighted that Platanos College are the well deserving winners of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge.

*“Public speaking and debating has really helped develop my speaking and writing skills. It has also helped me build a lot of confidence and I am delighted to win this competition!”* **Patrick Ballesteros**

*“It was a great experience and I’m glad we won! I think this is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to get their voices heard.”* **Shana Kay Harwood**



# THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

## Youth Achievement Awards



*Youth Achievement Award winners*

The Youth Achievement Awards (YAA) were launched at the school earlier this year.

The YAA provides an activity based approach to peer education and encourages young people to take responsibility in selecting, planning and leading group activities.

Congratulations to the following pupils, who are the first pupils to receive the award:

**Julie Dao, Julie Joram, Aliana Oposa, Nikita Brown, Sarah Bello,**

**Ma Meco Tesoro, Mariana Rodriques, Anisa Hersi, Mimi Massaquoi, Paige Davis, Lisa Tham, Deqa Elmi, Winnie To, Christiana Goncalves, Genielle Dearne, Anais Angoua and Jayda Quartey.**

## Sights on a career in the City

A group of our Year 9s on the able, gifted and talented register, attended a city careers Workshop at the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS).

The workshop was designed to raise the aspirations of young people and increase their awareness of the wide variety of career opportunities based in the City and Finance/Banking sector. The programme was delivered by 'The Brokerage Citylink' charity.

Through meeting and working with UBS employees, pupils were encouraged to re-evaluate and explore their preconceptions of the City.



*Gifted and talented pupils outside UBS*

After a tour of the UBS building (including witnessing a trading floor), the pupils also gained an understanding of the employability skills that are vital to succeeding in the City, by designing a poster to recruit candidates and delivering a pitch to the UBS staff and their peers.

## THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

# Accelerated Reader Programme

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a programme used at Platanos College to increase reading comprehension and aid pupils to develop the love of reading. This motivational programme helps our pupils to focus on different authors and genres enabling them to learn and use a wide variety of reading skills. These skills serve to enhance their ability to understand different levels of text in all subject areas.

Pupils are required to read a certain amount of books each term and take quizzes on each book. The goal is to achieve 80% or higher in each quiz. Parents/Carers can find out about the books that their children are reading and how they are performing in the quizzes.

We hope to instil a love of reading in all our pupils. The most important aspect of AR is the fact that children are reading and understanding what they have read.

Congratulations to the following pupils:

**Kawtar Haouache** - Year 7 Autumn Term Winner

**Ricardo Sewell** - Year 7 Spring Term Winner

**Fardowsa Hersi** - Year 7 Summer Term Winner

**Ayman Abdulrahim** - Year 8 Autumn Term Winner

**Joel Britto** - Year 8 Spring Term Winner

**Abdullah Hussain** - Year 8 Summer Term Winner



Ayman Abdulrahim

# Phoenix Book Awards

On World Book Day, our pupils Kawtar Haouache and Samiha Parvez won the Best Book Review Award and the Special Book Review Award, respectively, at the Phoenix Book Awards Ceremony held at the new Clapham Library.

The Phoenix Book Award programme promotes reading for pleasure among our Key Stage 3 pupils and is a borough-wide awards programme. Our pupils have greatly benefited from the school's participation in the programme since its launch in 2007.

*"I really enjoy the programme. My reading has improved a lot and I now realise that reading can be enjoyable."* **Kawtar Haouache**

*Best Book Review Award Winner Kawtar Haouache (left)*





## THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

# Lambeth Music Achievement Awards 2013



Our Year 7 pupils were awarded medals and certificates for their efforts and achievements in music at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (South Bank University) Annual Music Event.

The pupils were delighted that their achievements were being recognised.

**Award Recipients:** Yoel Abadi, Jason Akbulut, Hanna Bagate, Hafsa Besong, Jahmi Bryan, Bernardo Coelho, Ana De Lima Alencar, Ibrahim Dirie, Antoni Fazio, Francisco Ferreira, Mohamed Amin Haile, Kawtar Haouache, Fardowsa Hersi, Jon Kalij, Samir King, Muhammed Koomson, Jason La, Kevin Lam, Daniela Louro, Ram'l Miller, Margarida Monteiro, Ang Ngo, Benjamin Otto, Samiha Parvez, Rachel Phang.

The music event was organised by the Lambeth Children and Young People's Service (CYPS).

## On a High Note



Congratulations are in order for two of our gifted musicians.

Congratulations go to Esther Lee for achieving her Grade 5 in piano from Trinity College London and Laura Graham-Clarke in achieving her Grade 4 in her vocals.

*Esther Lee & Laura Graham-Clarke with Mr. Whyte, Head of Music at Platanos College.*

# THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

## Equality Assemblies

At Platanos, we are fully committed to promoting equality and diversity. This is ensuring that individuals or groups of individuals at the school are treated equally, specific to their needs, and inclusive of race, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation and age.

We are also pleased to announce Platanos College is a recognised School Champion in this work, in partnership with Stonewall, a charity dedicated to tackling bullying in all its forms, particularly homophobic bullying.



We aim to remove all forms of discrimination, recognise and value differences and help pupils to realise their full potential by promoting an inclusive culture for all pupils and staff.

Equality Assemblies were held for Years 7 to 11. Pupils from the Anti-Bullying Committee led assemblies focused on tackling homophobic language and bullying. The pupils who led the assemblies were trained on the subject by Stonewall.

Pupils involved in leading the Equality Assemblies:

**Edward Adonteng, 8A**  
**Nadege Makengo, 8B**  
**Christiana Olufade, 8A**

**Zara Ahmed, 9A**  
**Genielle Dearne, 9A**  
**Gisela Fernandes, 9A**  
**Louis Karten, 9A**

**Daniel Ennis, 10A1**  
**Celia Hoang, 10A1**  
**Melissa Branco, 11A1**  
**Shanae Bedford, 11A1**



*Gisela Fernandes, Anti-Bullying  
Committee Member*

*"It is important that people accept that we live in a diverse society and learn to deal with it. People should not be bullied for being different. People should learn to deal with their own prejudices and understand that bullying people by calling them "gay" can be really hurtful."*  
**Gisela Fernandes, 9A**

*"Language is important. When people use homophobic language they make others feel insecure and excluded."*  
**Zara Ahmed, 9A**



*Zara Ahmed, Anti-Bullying  
Committee Member*



## THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

# Anne Frank Ambassadors



*Ambassadors with Mr. Knoller*



*Ambassadors delivering a session to Yr.7 pupils*

It has been an action packed year for the Anne Frank Ambassadors at Platanos College.

The programme began with training for our ambassadors in preparation for the Anne Frank Exhibition which was held at the school and at Newham Town Hall.

The exhibition is a creative workshop programme and an exhibition exploring the story of Anne Frank, the Holocaust, genocide, civil rights and conflict. The aim of the programme is to give context for young people to discuss contemporary issues including:

- Understanding human rights
- Exploring democracy
- Tackling racism and hate crime
- Understanding the negative impact of religious extremism
- Promoting diversity and community cohesion
- Challenging anti-social behaviour

Mr Freddie Knoller, a Holocaust survivor, kindly attended the closing ceremony of the Anne Frank Exhibition and gave a powerful presentation of his life-story to a group of our ambassadors.

They also entered the Schools' Competition, in which they had to deliver a short groups session to primary school pupils about Anne Frank and prejudice.

The organisers were extremely impressed with the variety of activities our ambassadors came up with and their smooth delivery. Our ambassadors came second place in the competition.

As a reward for their outstanding work and commitment to the Anne Frank Programme, the ambassadors will be going on a trip to Amsterdam to visit the Anne Frank Museum.

*"It was a great opportunity to be able to share the knowledge of the Holocaust. The role of an exhibition tour guide has certainly developed my confidence in speaking to an audience."* **Julie Dao**

## THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

# International Evening



Our annual International Evening, traditionally organised by our parents/carers and staff, took place with a whole host of events and activities.

The event celebrated the cultural diversity at Platanos College with entertaining acts including cultural dancing and singing on show, and a wonderful variety of food.

# Business Fair

The Business Fair remains an integral event on the School calendar, as part of the School's Business and Enterprise specialism. The day was, once again, a good platform for Platanos College pupils to display their sharp entrepreneurial skills. Pupils and staff raised £400 which was donated to Help For Heroes and The British Red Cross.





# THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

## London Debating Competition

Our debating teams from Year 7-10 participated in the London Debating Competition.

This event provided our pupils with invaluable experience in speaking on a public platform. It encouraged our pupils to formulate their ideas on specific topics and present them concisely in a limited time; together with the opportunity to learn from the high standards of other speakers.

It also provided our most able pupils with the opportunity to develop their self confidence by competing and socialising with a wider circle of pupils.



### Year 7 Debating Team

Kevin Lam 7A  
Francisco Ferreira 7A  
Hafsa Besong 7A

### Year 9 Debating Team

Zara Ahmed 9A  
Gisella Fernandes 9A  
Toni L'Ouverture 9A

### Year 8 Debating Team

Edward Adonteng 8A  
Cuba French 8A  
Cameron French 8B

### Year 10 Debating Team

Patrick Ballesteros 10A1  
Daniel Ennis 10A1  
Oniel Croal 10B1

*"I thoroughly enjoyed the event because it provided pupils with a great opportunity to think deeply about issues and carry out in-depth research. Debating helps them to be more tolerant of other people's ideas as well as building their self confidence. These are skills children need when they go to university. The Platanos College debaters were brilliant - alert, vibrant and authentic. The event was great."*  
**Ms Mills, parent of Toni L'Ouverture, 9A**



# Cambridge University Workshop

Our pupils in 9A had the wonderful opportunity to attend a workshop hosted by Chemistry graduates from Cambridge University.



The trip was designed to raise aspirations early so that pupils see Cambridge and Oxford as an option. The trip also serves to aid pupils make the right choices in terms of their subjects and motivate our pupils to put in the necessary effort to achieve their aims. It also acts to broaden the horizons of able pupils, raise academic/career aspirations and increase their motivation to achieve the top A/A\* grades at GCSE.

At the start of the session some of our pupils already had solid ideas on what they wanted to do in the future and most were interested in attending university. Information on the Russell Group universities, the top 24 universities in the UK, was shared. The Russell Group universities lead the way in research, outstanding teaching and learning, and have unrivalled links with businesses. Pupils recognised the importance of choosing a good university and appreciated that a degree from a renowned university could significantly impact their education and future careers.

*"I learnt about the importance of selecting a subject you love and are passionate about."* **Lisa Tham**

*"It extended my knowledge and informed me vastly on the courses that could be studied at university."* **Natasha Smith**

*"The workshop showed us options and opportunities that previously seemed unreachable."*  
**Nathaniel Edwards**



# Royal Opera House Partnership

Platanos College has recently established a partnership with the Royal Opera House.

The Royal Opera House currently runs an after school ballet programme for primary school pupils in Lambeth, at Platanos College.

The partnership with the Royal Opera House, has also provided our own pupils with many opportunities. Some of our pupils had the opportunity to tour the Royal Opera House and see a production of Romeo and Juliet.

The trip involved a question and answer session with professional ballerinas, watching rehearsals and the costume preparation backstage and understanding the management of such a large production.



*A Perfect view*



*Pupils put on costumes*

# THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

## Children's University Graduation 2013

This year, 30 pupils graduated from the Children's University at London South Bank University.

The pupils were welcomed to the ceremony by Bev Jullen, the Pro Vice Chancellor of London South Bank University, and Angela Nelson, the Lambeth Children's University Manager.



*Pupils celebrating after the ceremony*

The Chief Executive of the Children's University delivered an inspiring key note speech encouraging pupils to believe in themselves, before presenting pupils with their certificates. It was a fantastic evening, which both pupils and parents thoroughly enjoyed.

The Children's University programme encourages children to actively try new subjects and activities outside normal school hours. The activities are all voluntary, and are able to choose the courses that they would like to study in their own time. Most importantly, the learning always has a link to a course available at 'grown up' university.

## Many congratulations to our Graduates of 2013



# THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

## Children's University Graduation 2013



*Platanos pupils celebrate with the Mayors of Southwark and Lambeth, the Pro Vice Chancellor of London South Bank University, and the manager and CEO of Children's University.*



*Jordan Burton with the  
CEO of Children's University*

### Year 8

Hafsa Besong  
Hanna Bagate  
Andy Cassombi  
Kawtar Haouache  
Kelsey Morseco  
Precious Oladipo  
Siham Osman  
Victoria Odubote

### Year 9

Edward Adonteng  
Sarah Bello  
Nikita Brown  
Jordan Burton  
Julie Dao  
Shirmae Elliott  
Charley Gazely  
Anisa Hersi  
Connor Hopkins  
Julie Joram  
Rita Krasinqi  
Alaina Oposa  
Daniel Payne  
Faisal Seginda  
Ma Mecor Tesoro  
Ashley Vernon- Staple

### Year 10

Zara Ahmed  
Mawa Bagate  
Genielle Dearne  
Gisela Fernandes  
Melissa Rodrigues  
Ryan Tsolaki

# Educational Visit to RAF Brize Norton



*Pupils at RAF Brize Norton*

Platanos College pupils had the wonderful opportunity to attend an educational trip to the Royal Air Force in Brize Norton, Oxfordshire. The trip was jointly organised by The Worshipful Company of Fuellers and RAF Brize Norton.

RAF Brize Norton is the largest station in the Royal Air Force, employing over 6,000 people of many different professions. The visit was an extremely enriching trip and pupils were involved in many different activities.

Pupils were able to meet members of the No. 216 Squadron and learn about the commitments and skills required of a professional pilot, and how knowledge gained in school is put into practice in everyday working life.

Our pupils had the lucky opportunity to board the Tristar aircraft and fly out to the North Sea for an air-to-air refuelling operation. Our pupils were treated to a spectacle as the Tristar refuelled several Typhoon jets mid-air at an altitude of 20,000 feet.

We hope this will become an annual event for the pupils at Platanos College.

*"It was an extremely informative trip and I enjoyed every bit of it. The highlight was being able to meet the pilots and fly over the North Sea and see fighter planes refuel mid-air! During the flight we were taught the technology and skills needed to make the operation successful. We used our maths to plan the flight and calculate the fuel required by the planes. I think with the right attitude and determination, any job is reachable."* **Francisca Lopes**



# THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

## Educational Visits

An extended programme of educational visits took place over the year to enhance the learning of pupils at Platanos College. These included trips to museums (Science Museum, Design Museum, St. John Museum, Tate Modern, amongst others), the Greenwich Planetarium, Royal Courts of Justice, Centre of the Cell, the Royal Air Force (RAF) base in Brize Norton, residential trips to Barcelona and many others.



Museum of Brands and Marketing



The Centre of the Cell



Richmond Park



London Zoo

*"The trip was really good fun. I also realised how important team work can be in everyday life."* **Liliana Fernandes**

*"It was fascinating to learn about all the different cells in our bodies! I really enjoyed this trip."* **Jayde Purcell**

*"It was amazing to see so many different animals and to learn about their environment."* **Siham Osman**

*"I really enjoyed the trip. It was nice seeing all the different brands and packaging."* **Andy Cassombi**

# THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

## Barcelona 2013

For the second year running, 40 boys and 40 girls from Years 7, 8 and 9 travelled to Spain for a week-long trip to Barcelona. The long journey through France allowed us to take in the scenery and see some amazing sights along the way such as the world-famous Milau bridge.

In Barcelona, the groups went to the beach, went shopping and had plenty of opportunities to practise their Spanish. They also visited the Olympic stadium from the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and the Picasso Museum, Gaudi's amazing Parc Guell, to the Nou Camp stadium and the famous Las Ramblas.

The weather was hot and sunny all week and pupils had a very enjoyable and rewarding experience. Upon their return pupils rated the trip 9 out of 10. In July 2014, there will be another trip for boys and girls to Barcelona.



Platanos pupils at the Olympic Stadium in Barcelona



*On the ferry*



*Parc Guell*



*La Sangrada Familia*



# THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

## PGL Trips

Our entire Year 7 group of pupils had the wonderful opportunity to attend a PGL multi-activity residential trip, over one weekend in East Sussex earlier this term.

Pupils participated in a host of activities including orienteering, quad biking, climbing and zip wire. The emphasis of the programme was on multiple skills: listening, leadership, teamwork between peers, confidence building, perseverance and communication.



*"I overcame my fear of heights and now I know that if you really focus on something you can rise above it."* **Tunde**

*"The trip improved my skills in making friends, which was useful as it is our first week at school."* **Eva**

*"I learnt to never give up and never say 'never'."* **Juliet**





## Parade Day 2013

“On parade was the School’s service units, including Girl Guides, Scouts and St. John Ambulance, with guests from the Worshipful Company of Fuellers and the West Indian Association Service Personnel. The theme for our third Parade Day is ‘Giving back to our Heroes’ and in reminding ourselves of the meaning and purpose of the Parade Day both nationally and at this school in particular, this theme symbolises and embodies the values that we are committed to developing in our young people at Platanos College. The same values, we hope, will stay with them throughout their lives as good and responsible citizens and active members of a truly inclusive, diverse society.

### LEADERSHIP

At Platanos College, we want to secure the best possible quality of leadership at all levels especially for our young leaders. Activities such as Parade Day is designed to widen pupils’ experience, develop their confidence and extend their skills. We are indeed truly fortunate in having a close association with the Worshipful Company of Fuellers who support our uniformed groups and who share our vision of developing generations of young people with a strong ethic of teamwork, discipline, responsibility, leadership and service.

We would like to thank The Worshipful Company of Fuellers and the Charitable Trust, in particular, Master Paul Cuttill, Mr Michael Husband, Mr Dennis Woods, Sir Antony Reardon Smith and Shravan Joshi for generously supporting a number of extra-curricular activities at Platanos College.

I would especially like to extend sincere thanks to our Chair of Governors, Mr Akin Alabi.

Thank you all for showing your support by attending this special event at our school.”

**Mr. Whyte, Head of Drama and Music**



*The Platanos Girl Guides at Parade Day*



# THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

## Combined Cadet Force

Platanos College has successfully established a Combined Cadets Force (CCF) in partnership with St. Dunstan's School. The cadet forces aim to give young people the chance to participate in exciting and challenging activities with others of their own age.

Young people are taught how to work together as groups within the community, encouraging them to become responsible young adults and learn valuable personal skills which are recognised by future employers. They will also have the opportunity to attend several residential trips.



*Platanos College Cadets on their first day*

"I enjoy being part of the cadets. I think it's a great opportunity and we have got a great team."  
**Edward Adonteng**

"We're so glad our son has these types of opportunities available to him. We've already seen the difference in him at home. He's become more organised and focused on his homework."  
**Parents of Year 10 Army Cadet**



## Cadet Field Day

Over the Autumn term the cadets have been practising drills and learning skills at arms. They were also taken on a field day where they learnt key skills including: how to apply camouflage cream, how to patrol, how to set up a basher (sleeping shelter), how to pack a Bergen and how to cook rations on a hexi stove. The cadets will be using these skills when they go on their first cadet weekend in May 2014.



*Army Cadets enjoying some warmth whilst waiting for their rations to cook*



*Platanos College Army Cadets*



# THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

## Lord Mayor's Show



*Cadets receiving a briefing before the parade*

The Lord Mayor's Show is a prestigious annual televised event to welcome the new Lord Mayor and mark the beginning of her year in office. There were more than 2,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and cadets and the mounted branch of the City of London Police Force present.

A selection of our Army Cadet pupils participated in the Lord Mayor's Show.

The opportunity was presented by The Worshipful Company of Fuellers, who support all of the uniformed groups at Platanos College.

It was a very early Saturday morning start; however, all of the pupils arrived early and were ready and raring to go. Despite the wet and cold weather the pupils remained enthusiastic throughout and immensely enjoyed the experience immensely.

The pupils were great ambassadors for both the School and their contingent.



Special thanks to:  
**Edward Adonteng**  
**Olivia-Paige Davis**  
**Lauryn Gayle**  
**Maklit Hannah**  
**Connor Hopkins**  
**Mohammed Marsou**  
**Liam Townsend**  
**Ami Wague**

## THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

# Lord Mayor's Show

The St. John Ambulance (SJA) Cadets also participated in the Lord Mayor's Show this year and were part of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital float, who work predominantly in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem.

The pupils had a wonderful time and enjoyed their moment of fame (they were on TV) and are looking forward to participating in the Lord Mayor's Show in the future.



*SJA Cadets on the St. John Float at the Lord Mayor's Show*

# Save a Life September

Our St. John Ambulance Cadets were out on duty teaching the public life saving first aid basics, as part of the St. John Ambulance Save a Life September campaign. Shoppers at Tesco Kennington and the N1 Centre in Islington were extremely impressed with the cadets' first aid knowledge and demonstrations. The cadets also did an outstanding job of raising £415.80 for the organisation which will go towards further training and resources.



*SJA Cadets giving public demonstrations*



*SJA Cadets fundraising*



# THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

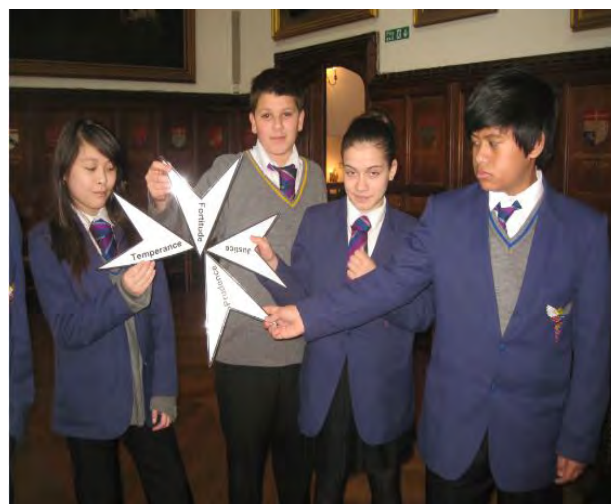
## First Aid Initiative



*Pupils with a St. John Ambulance*

We believe in preparing our pupils and giving them a range of skills for their future. It has been a great year for the First Aid Initiative across all year groups at Platanos College.

This year, 13 pupils participated in the National Schools First Aid Competition 2013. All pupils enjoyed the day, enhancing their learning on CPR, how to use a defibrillator, using walkie talkies in real life scenarios, and learning about how St. John Volunteers deal with life threatening situations.



*Year 7 Pupils with the Almalfi Cross*

Our Year 7 pupils underwent a 6 week enrichment programme where they all learnt basic first aid skills in dealing with an unconscious casualty, CPR, choking, dealing with a heart attack and bleeding. At the end of the programme pupils went on a trip to the Museum of the Order of St. John in Farringdon.

*"I am now more aware of how to help people in need of first aid and have gained a lot of self confidence"*

*"Learning first aid is a life changing course."*

This year 41 Year 11 pupils became fully qualified first aiders; they all worked through the programme, working to their full potential in practical and theoretical tasks.

*"I'm in the St Johns Ambulance Cadets, I like taking part in first aid competition, not only to have fun, but so I can use the skills in life."*

*"I have learnt how to treat a casualty and the way in which they should be treated depending on their injury or illness."*

*"I am now more aware of what to do in real life scenarios and now I need to be responsible for my actions as a qualified first aider."*



*Pupils at St. John Museum*

## THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

# Chelsea Football Club GCSE Trip

The P.E. Department has also provided opportunities for pupils to enhance their learning through various educational trips. Notably, our trip to Chelsea Football Club (Stamford Bridge) was deemed a huge success. The department decided that it was beneficial for the pupils to learn some components out of the classroom and in real world sporting environments.

The pupils were provided with a GCSE theory booklet to complete throughout the tour. The booklet required them to complete questions on the following GCSE areas: health and safety, sports psychology, diet and nutrition, the anatomy and the business links to running a football club.

The collective feedback from the pupils was very positive. Overall they deemed the visit entertaining, engaging and found the opportunity of asking the tour guide a range of questions intriguing. Academically, the pupils were provided with countless opportunities to consolidate prior GCSE learning and display any new theoretical content they had learnt in a setting that would help with long term attainment.



*Year 11 pupils outside Chelsea Football Club*

*"Reflecting on both what I learnt and what I did, I think that this was an all round unforgettable educational trip for anyone, even those who don't like football. By covering so many aspects of GCSE revision on the tour it caters for everyone leaving each visitor with a smile on their face."* **Year 11 Pupil**



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## Norwich City FC Trials

Hamed Timite (8D), a very gifted young footballer, has recently been invited to train with Norwich City Football Club in the Premier League.

Hamed is a hard working and determined young individual who has excelled in every training session and football match. He attends every training session with the same work ethic and discipline and has represented Platanos College on many occasions.

His PE teachers, Ms Simpson and Mr Mayne, said: *"Hamed is very popular amongst his team mates and always plays with a smile on his face. He has a very positive attitude and is always willing to help his peers. With his continued hard work and dedication, we are confident he will fulfil his dreams of becoming a professional footballer."*



A delighted Hamed said: *"I am extremely happy and excited right now. I now know that with the right attitude and hard work, I have a chance of succeeding. I am grateful for the support that I have been getting and the encouragement to work at something that I am passionate about."*

## National Sports Week

This year, our goal for National Sports Week was to inspire pupils to try new sports and learn about the value and ethos of sport. The sports that the pupils participated in included: table tennis, volleyball, dance, gym, basketball and rounders.

These sports were selected to allow pupils to work both individually and as a team, enabling the pupils to learn and develop skills which can and will be used as they progress through school and later in life.

We actively encourage pupils to follow the Olympic values in National Sports Week: friendship, respect, excellence, determination, inspiration, courage, equality and teamwork.

Through the successful completion of the different sporting activities pupils were allocated points for their house. These points were combined with points for each house on Sports Day.

*"I really enjoyed trying out a new sport. I didn't think I would enjoy table tennis as much as I did!"* **Nikitta Brown**



# THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

## Sports Day 2013



Our annual Sports Day has been a great success for a third year running. This was expressed by the majority of staff and pupils alike. Sports Day took place on a sweltering hot day with the mercury hitting 28 degrees. However, this did not deter the pupils' spirit and willingness to participate and push themselves to their athletic limits.

Three new medals were introduced to Sports Day this year. Pupils had the opportunity to win medals for Sportsmanship (Gold) Leadership (Silver) and Determination (Bronze), in the different events, in line with the School's stance on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) and the Olympic values.

All participating year groups (Year 7-9) had a boys' and girls' Captain and Vice-captain for each house. They enthusiastically carried out their roles as house captains, signing-up athletes from within their houses, as well as embracing the leadership and responsibility given to them.

The athletes displayed immense perseverance and inner drive to participate to their full potential regardless of the weather. The Year 7 especially, got into the swing of things very quickly, as this was their first experience of Sports Day being hosted on-site.

Final standings including National School Sports Week Points (Sports Day points in brackets):

1. Nile (173) 313
2. Tagus (153) 310
3. Indus (151) 277
4. Amazon (122) 276

In a closely contested affair Nile House reigned supreme by 3 points, notably Indus beat Amazon into third by 1 point. The success of our Sports Day would not have been possible without the hard work, dedication and positive attitude demonstrated by all staff members and pupils involved.





# THE PLATANOS COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT MAGAZINE

## Sports Day 2013



*Tug-o-war*



*Shot-put*



*Speed Bounce*



*Javelin*



*Volleyball*





## League Champions



*Platanos Under 16 Girls Team - League Champions*

During the first half of term our Under-16 Girls Basketball team at Platanos have been competing in the Lambeth League as part of the London Youth Games and National Schools Competitions.

The team faced Dunraven School in the final and won 15 - 10. This is the first time in the School's history that the U16s team have won this league. We now progress to the next stages of the London Youth Games.

Many congratulations to our very talented team.

**Team Members: Eunika Edwards, Mawa Bagate, Patrea Powell-Farquharson, Bryony Bromfield, Melissa Rodrigues, Special-Rose Brisefort, Su Allen, Marta Mateus, Ademola Ogunnowo.**