



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

Key Stage 3 Newsletter Spring Term

Friday 1st April 2022

Attitude Determines Altitude

Message to all of our KS3 Pupils

Welcome to the Platanos College KS3 Spring Term newsletter.

As another term draws to a close it provides us with the opportunity to reflect upon our pupil's hard work and continued success.

Our pupils have continued to display their resilience, determination and positive attitude to learning.

One of my highlights this term has been has been the reintroduction of the various sports teams and the commencement of competitive fixtures with local schools.

The Covid-19 pandemic meant that this was not possible last year and it has been great to see our sports teams beginning to thrive again.

These teams provide pupils with the opportunity to develop character and life skills in a different type of learning arena.

It is always great to hear the positive feedback from members of the public and staff at other schools when our pupils represent Platanos College.

As we approach the summer term the pupils are also reminded that they are expected to make their way directly home at the end of the school day.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind pupils to use the Easter break to ensure that they are prepared for the Summer term in relation to uniform and equipment in line with the school expectations.

I hope that all pupils, parents and carers have found this academic term to be a positive experience and are looking forward to continuing working in partnership with Platanos College for the benefit of each pupil.

I wish all pupils, parents and carers a well-deserved restful Easter break.

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

Year 9 Careers Workshop 30th March 2022



In preparation for the year 9 Options, the year 9 pupils participated in a and interactive Careers Workshop to support them in choosing their GCSE options. GCSE's are the main qualifications that young people will do in key stage 4 (years 10 & 11).



The workshop also included Gatsby Benchmark 5 – Encounters with employers and employees. *“Every pupil should have*



multiple opportunities to learn from employers about work, employment and the world of work.”

Pupil Voice

“I enjoyed the session especially meeting someone from the world of work”.

Jassim Sayden 9H

“I am glad that I attended this workshop it will help me think about my GCSE options”

Tyrell Allen 9W



Year 9 Media Trip

In March 20 pupils from Year 9 were taken to visit FTI Consulting for a series of media workshops in line with Young Citizens.

The day consisted of three parts:

1. Types of media
2. Defining and identifying fake news
3. Pupils presenting what they had learnt



Pupils were quizzed on the evolution of different types of media throughout history, from town criers and the first newspapers, to social media and apps. They were shocked to find out that there were only four channels on TV in the 1980s!

In the second session, pupils explored several case studies that involved 'fake news', one story being centred around Woolworths reopening! Pupils were then given the opportunity to write their own sensationalised fake news story about a shampoo company. This allowed them to put their creativity and writing skills to the test as they tried to create the most dramatic and fake story possible. The volunteers then equipped pupils with the knowledge on how to identify and verify fake news.



Pupils have expressed how they initially joined Debate Mate to have fun after school, they added that they have enjoyed the competitions immensely and believe they have acquired effective arguing skills.



When asked, pupils commented on the range of different debating topics that they have enjoyed from environmental issues to mental health. Pupils have expressed that the enjoyment comes from arguing a point they really believe in. The pupils believed that their confidence and skill in public speaking has improved since starting Debate Mate.

Following lunch, pupils then created presentations to summarise everything they had learnt. The presentations were well planned, researched and delivered, with lots of pupils developing their confidence and public speaking.



It was a great trip and pupils learnt lots of facts and strategies they can use in their day-to-day life when interacting with media.

Debate Club Urban Debate League

This term has been a busy one for Debate Mate. There have been 2 rounds of the Urban Debate League for pupils in year 7, year 8 and year 9. Year 10 Debate Mate Accelerate pupils were successful in their round and won both of their debates on the day! Pupils were up against teams from other schools where they showed fantastic sportsmanship, debating skills and team work. It was a truly enjoyable experience for all pupils involved. We look forward to a continued winning streak by the year 10 pupils and further success from our Key Stage 3 teams.

"I joined Debate Mate to meet new people and develop my debating skills. I enjoy working as part of a team and partaking in the competition elements of the club. I believe I am acquiring better debating skills such as following the PEEL format".

Kyra Knibbs-Curtis 9A

"I joined Debate Mate to learn new skills, gain confidence and make new friends across year groups. I enjoy working as part of a team and the club is always fun".

Zuhra Osman 7A

"I joined Debate Mate to improve MY debating skills. The thing I enjoy the most about the society is working with friends and arguing important issues. The skills I have acquired are communication skills and team building skills".

Safara Cooke 9A

"I have learned how to speak confidently, listen well to others and plan an effective argument since joining Debate Mate. I also enjoy the top-quality snacks we are given at the end of each session! I think my involvement in the club will be uselessness on my CV for sixth form and colleges".

Jason Tran 9A

KS3 'Bookshop Upstairs' Trips

We had the absolute pleasure of taking a small group of pupils from both 7E and 8E to the 'Bookshop Upstairs' in Chelsea, run by a charity called London Children's Book Project. Pupils rotated around the shop, learning about the supply chain and created bookmarks and literary bunting. The highlight of the trip was when each pupil was allowed to choose any book they wanted for free!

Both pupils and staff enjoyed the days out. Here's what some of them had to say:

Ms Peliza, 8E Form Tutor - *"I had the pleasure of accompanying 8E on this trip to the 'Bookshop Upstairs'. There was a real appreciation of reading and the importance of reading the 'right' books. The first session was in a room with wallpaper made out of various children's books and took us all down 'memory lane'. All pupils were engaged and when they had the opportunity to choose their own books they were so excited. Watching them reading their new books on the way back to school was very humbling to see and this opportunity was not just a school trip it was about finding yourself as a reader with the right book - what a great opportunity!"*

Anisa, 7E Pupil – *"I most enjoyed when we got our own book and we had to make our bookmarks. I chose Lord of the Rings because I love the book and I have another one."*

Dorian, 7E Pupil – *"I chose the Guinness Book of World Records so I can try to beat the records!"*



Rosie, 7E Pupil – *"The thing I most enjoyed was getting a new book to read. I chose 'Super Good Skills' by Tom Gates because it looks fun and I like Tom Gates books."*

Ms Hassan – *"The Bookshop Upstairs was definitely a trip I would personally remember. The trip to get there was fantastic and we were extremely lucky with the weather too: talking to the children about different historical buildings and crossing the river was a very exciting moment for our pupils. Arriving at the Bookshop and seeing how our pupils were interacting with other adults was a tremendously proud moment."*



Ms Everhart, 8E English Teacher – *"The pupils had a really lovely time on the trip on Monday. They were thrilled when we went into the library to pick out books -- they took a lot of time and care selecting their books and were chatting excitedly with one*

another about the books they'd selected. I can't wait to see how they use the new books we have in the classroom!"

Talitha, 8E Pupil – *"I enjoyed everything about the trip! I chose 'The Wolf Rider' because it looks interesting."*

Tyler, 8E Pupil – *"I most enjoyed looked at the books. I chose 'Dog Man' because it looks fun to read!"*

Not only did the pupils love the trip, but they were a credit to the school – the bookshop volunteers were blown away by their perfect behaviour and enthusiasm for books.



Natasha Muller, Visit Lead at the Children's Book Project – *"The Platanos class were a delightful, engaging and highly articulate group of young adults. We were especially impressed by their respectful approach and their impeccable behaviour. Your class were exemplary guests and their engagement in the activities was truly inspiring to us all. Marion was particularly impressed by their broad discussions about reading, authors and links to current affairs."*

In the bookshop itself, it was a delight to discuss the books the children enjoy reading and their delight at further book suggestions was heart-warming. Their professional, motivated and mature approach made them our favourite visitors so far this academic year."



Extra-curricular clubs and enrichment

Our pupils have revelled and thrived in taking up the opportunity to do extra-curricular and enrichment clubs. There has been a substantial increase in the participation numbers for Physical Education Clubs; complemented by the opportunity to play competitively against other schools and put their skills into action.

A number of matches having taken place for netball, boys' basketball, boys' and girls' football and boys' indoor athletics across the Spring term. The pupils are richer for the opportunity to hone their skills in a pressured environment.

The History 'Fact and Fiction' club, Computer 'Robotics', Debate Mate, Writing Academy and CCF Army Cadets, Reading, Drama, Spanish Club and Science STEM Club are in full swing.

History Fact & Fiction Club:

This half term pupils explored a variety of historical perspectives spanning from our studies of Chinese dynasties in the 4th Century, all the way to 20th Century Britain, when we looked at the experiences of young men during World War One. Our pupils discussed each film through the context of its historical past and made valuable contributions about the fact and fiction of each narrative.

MFL (Spanish Club):

During this term pupils attending the MFL homework club, have been doing a variety of activities to develop their listening and speaking skills:

-Listening to authentic Spanish radio programmes, music and podcasts.

-Playing 'snake and ladders' and 'the unfair game' in order to develop their spontaneous communication skills in the target language.

-Using vocabulary and conversational cards to improve their fluency when speaking in the target language.



STEM Club (Year 7):

Pupils have been introduced to key Science concepts such as Centre of Mass, Elasticity and Stretching forces. What has been enjoyed by them is the opportunity for them to play around with the equipment relating to the concepts, understand the application in everyday life and then apply their conceptual ability to articulate the scientific concept associated with this.

What has been particularly impressive has been witnessing the ability of these pupils who with some helpful scaffolding were able to state the scientific laws involved - something KS4 pupils have to be pushed to define.

STEM Club (year 8 & 9):

Pupils have been very enthused by the activities done and have performed to a very good standard.

These activities included Making salts, neutralisation, Acid rain, using scientific apparatus for titration, making soap bubbles stronger. We are planning the start of the science project 'Stem Kart' in collaboration with STEM.

Pupils have truly benefited from the essential balance extra-curricular and enrichment clubs afford them.

Equality and Diversity Workshop

Year 7 and 8 pupils participated in an Equality and Diversity Workshop on 30th March 2022, which was presented by Julie Wilkinson from Brave the Rage organisation.

Julie has been working with Platanos College for over 10 years and throughout the years supported Platanos College in promoting the equality of opportunity for all, giving every individual the chance to achieve their potential free from prejudice and discrimination.



Pupil Voice

"I have learnt a lot about diversity and it was fun!"

Ramsey Bouzaine, 7A

"I liked the competition it helped with my understanding"

Ekram Amir, 7A

"This was a good topic and was really good"

Jay-Emmanuel Jordan, 7A

KS3 Football

This half term has seen an increase in fixtures against neighbouring schools to which pupils have demonstrated great progress. All year groups have had competitive fixtures this term which have been very exciting for our football teams. Pupils have grasped the opportunity to compete and demonstrate skills learnt in lessons and afterschool club against their counterparts.

There have been a range of results to celebrate this term, Year 7 boys played their first competitive match against Oasis Academy and won 4 – 1. It was a closely contested first half with very little in it and both teams squandered a few chances, however Platanos was 1 nil up. Jay-Emmanuel was the catalyst of all Platanos' positive and attacking play. The second half started much like the first and the boys saw out the victory with an additional 3 goals. Well done Platanos College Year 7 boys' football. Onwards and upwards!



The squad comprised of:

- Jay-Emmanuel Jordan (captain)
- Luis Moreira (vice-captain)
- Samuel Dickson
- Reyon Hollingsworth
- Dorian Allen
- Eshaan Baiden
- Rami Aberra
- Owolabi Adesoye
- Richard Oguejiofor
- Nawaf Yassin
- Rakan Yassin
- Isaac Adu-Gyamfi
- Suhayb Hassan

The Year 9 Boys drew 1 -1 against City Heights Academy in their second game of the season. It was clear to see the progress

the team had made since their first match. The boys showed a lot of grit and determination after going a goal down and were unlucky not to win the match after hitting the crossbar four times. Player of the match Selem Laporte – 9W marshalled the midfield and was the catalyst for many of the good play we demonstrated. Well done to the team who have showed incredible commitment to training and improving as a team.



The squad comprised of:

- Samuele Racini
- Dillion Agyemeng (captain)
- Rashaan Baiden
- Samuel Fernandes Cardoso
- Lucas Camacho
- Nyron Ukeku-Kerr
- Faris Abdu
- Aaron Ahua
- Kayden Palangafkan
- Femi Idowu
- Ramy Boulbadaoui
- Lemuel Oderinde
- Selem Laporte

KS3 Girls Football

The girls' team have played many games this term with each fixture showing great improvement. The highlight of the season was the victory against Oasis Academy Southbank. Goals from Medina Flash and Maryam Muhammed secured a well-deserved 2- 1 win. The team has been committed to training every Friday and this was evident in their last match.

The squad comprised of:

- Mariama Diallo
- Stephanie Candido
- Maya Abdelwasi

- Melissa Handem
- Sophia Martins
- Maryam Muhammed
- Samira Abdu
- La'Mya Blackstock
- Macia Kafe
- Joude Aouchiche
- Kyara Manuel
- Saahirah Khan
- Alaa Ouzane

On Wednesday 30th March 2022 the year 8 & 9 girls attended a tournament held at Ferndale Community Sport Centre in collaboration with St Matthews Project. It was a tournament which comprised of 13 teams split into two leagues. The girls made a valiant effort however, they were not able to progress onto the semi-finals as it was a very challenging and competitive league. Congratulations to Maryam Muhammed who was awarded star player of the tournament by the organisers, who were mesmerised by her trickery and skilful play.



Boys' Indoor Sports Hall Athletics

The annual Lambeth Sports Hall Athletics competition for boys was hosted by the London Nautical School during first Spring-term. The competition was for Year 7 and 8; this was their first experience of an event of this nature due to the cancellation of the

event in 2020/2021 as a result of the pandemic.

The boys gave a great account of themselves regardless of the limited opportunities to train and prepare for the competition and the various events due to timetabling.

The boys showed great commitment by attending morning training sessions at 7h30 and they quickly adapted to the demand, rigor and expectations placed on them. Key focus was on familiarising themselves with the technical aspects of various events.

They did their very best and left it all out on the 'track' so to speak. The events were the divided into track and field events:

The track events were:

2, 4 and 6 lap individual sprints, the lap paarlauf and the 4 x 2 lap relay.

The field events were:

Shot put, standing broad/long jump, vertical jump and speed-bounce.

Notable performances for year 7's were by La Quahn won his 6 lap sprint, Jason and Richard received third places in their 4 lap events.

In the Year 8 competition William won his 2-lap sprint, placed 2nd in the shot put and standing broad jump events. He also steered the relay team to a 2nd place finish in the relay.

Jowaad obliterated the competition in the 6-lap individual with a monumental performance winning the race by a lap. He was also part of the relay that placed 2nd.

All athletes revelled in the competition and were the embodiment of our school's motto: *'Attitude Determines Altitude!'*

The squads comprised of:

Year 7:

- La Quahn Lodge
- Simao Dos Santos Correia
- Omer Ahmed
- Abdulrahman Ahmed
- Owalabi Adesoye

- Richard Oguejiofor
- Jason Costa Braganca.

Year 8:

- William Pinto Marques
- Jowaad Aouchiche
- Namonte Henry-Cornwall
- Lloyd Lewi
- Aaron Frimpong
- Samuel Varela Lucas



KS3 Basketball

Our under 14 boys continue their winning streak this term with a convincing victory against Bishop Thomas Grant. The score was BTG 19 vs 41 Platanos College. It was a dominate display from beginning to end and the team exuded confidence throughout. Player of the match and captain Theodore Bailey's performance was outstanding as he led the team to victory scoring 21 points.

The squad comprised of:

- Kallai Boswell
- Lemuel Oderinde
- Mohammed Rahman
- Diego Tituana Yopez
- Theodore Bailey
- Nyron Ukuoku-Kerr
- Pharrell Green

- Cairo-Cartier Haye
- Max Scott
- Zhikang Chen

Year 9 Netball

Since the season has started it has been turmoil for our Year 9 netball team. It has been fraught with cancellations due to poor weather and pandemic mayhem. However, what has really been truly amazing is the spirit of these pupils.

They have been constantly dedicated to training to improve their skills and level of fitness. It has also been an opportunity for a group of pupils to come together from different tutor groups, to work in cohesion, with a mission to be a very successful netball team.

It has been very encouraging to see those who started in Year 7 still remain with great ambition and passion and those that have just started reflect that same energy.

There were particular performances that really stood out during their 4-2 victory over Harris Academy Clapham, with Regina Fonseca 9D scoring all four goals with the help of Shani Hall-Whitrod 9H feeding in the passes to make that possible. Mya Pinto 9H and Tamera Jerry 9D worked competitively in defence to ensure the other team had very little chances of even making it into their own goal third to score.

Nevertheless, this could not of been without the connecting play of our centre players, Macia Kafe 9D, Mariama Diallo 9D, Halimah 9H, Tristine, Virtuous Danzari 9A and our very recent new player, Angelica Brito Martins 9E who were very determined to consistently win the ball so that our team had the opportunity to score.

Sumayyah Daud 9D and Sumaya Sheik 9C also contributed to keeping the score line down of the other team with their help in defence when it was their turn. Overall, the performance of the Year 9 netball team has been fantastic and they are very much looking forward to achieving more success.

Kia Kennington Oval Cricket Ground

For the Spring term Trips to Enhance Learning, 7A and 7B visited the home of cricket – the Kia Kennington Oval Cricket Ground.



On a fascinating tour pupil learned the history of the local area and the sporting history of the Oval. Pupils learned that the Oval held the first international football game in the world, the first international rugby game in the world and the venue for the first ever FA cup final!



Pupils also considered the business plans of a sporting stadia and for Surrey County Cricket Club. This including information about merchandise, sponsorship and corporate hire in order for such a business to make a profit.

Pupils were also lucky to meet and have a brief discussion with BBC cricket commentator Kevin Howells about the workings of cricket radio and TV broadcasting.

British Museum



London Stadium

The trip to the London Stadium, formally known as the Olympic Stadium and now the home ground of West Ham United was deemed a huge success amongst our Year 8 pupils. The trip's general focus was to engage and inspire pupils whilst also giving them an insight into the history of West Ham Football Club and the Olympic Games of 2012.

Pupils were given a guided tour of the stadium gaining exclusive access to behind the scenes routines. Pupils explored the home changing room, visited the indoor running track, walk the famous players tunnel into the stadium itself and were also given access into the luxurious royal suites. It was an overwhelming experience for many of our pupils who had only seen a stadium on tv.



After the tour, pupils were able to explore the Olympic Park outside of the London Stadium and immerse themselves in the scenery. It was a very enjoyable day and pupils demonstrated exemplary behaviour throughout, members of the general public commented on how well behaved our pupils were as they were great ambassadors of the school.

The collective feedback from pupils was very positive. Overall, they deemed the trip entertaining, engaging and found the opportunity of asking the tour guide a range of questions intriguing. One student summed up their view on the trip as a whole stating:

"It was interesting to see the footballer's routines before a match"

Stephanie 8C

"the trip was very inspirational for a young person like me who wants to become a footballer"

Namonte 8C



Escape Room – Year 7

On Tuesday 29th March 7C/7D enjoyed a trip to a local escape room where they worked in teams to solve puzzles and work their way out of the room. All groups attempted the Bank Heist room featuring code breakers, mathematical problems, strategic thinking and written communications. One group managed to escape just over the time frame and were rewarded with medals. All groups thoroughly enjoyed it and were keen to understand the solutions to their escape. The student's behaviour was exemplary and they engaged well and politely with the members of staff at the venue.



Sutton Life Centre

As a part of the Year 7 trips to enhance learning programme 19 year 7 pupils attended the Sutton Life Centre on Tuesday 29th April 2022.

The Sutton Life Centre in an interactive centre using audio-visual equipment to young people explore and address the dangers and risks currently present in society. The pupils were broken into small groups and taken on a tour of the venue, whilst on the tour they took part in interactive workshops focused on the following areas:

- Knife crime
- Bullying
- Using public transport safely
- Recycling
- Energy use
- Importance of a balanced diet
- Safety signs and hazards
- Fire safety

All the pupils engaged well with the workshops and the tour representing the school in a positive manner with their behaviour and level of focus. After the tour and workshops the hosts recapped the important information before the conducting a quiz, giving away free water bottles to the pupils who answered correctly. The pupils impressed the hosts with the amount of information that they had absorbed and quickly answered all the questions correctly. All pupils and staff then ate lunch together, it was great to watch pupils and staff socialising whilst eating their packed lunches and discussing their experiences from the morning.

The journey to and from the Sutton Life Centre took close to an hour including a tube journey and bus journey, the pupils displayed exemplary conduct throughout the journey representing the school in a such a positive manner that members of the public went out of their way to complement the manner in which the pupils were conducting themselves.

Clue Quest Escape Rooms

On the 29th of March 2022, 9A and 9B went to Clue Quest Escape Room. We left the school and travelled by the underground to Kings Cross Station. Within a 15-minute walk, we arrived at the location.

Separated into groups of six, we went into the room. We completed a variety of puzzles which enabled us to find objects by exploring the room. We often used these objects to help figure out numbers, opening drawers and hidden compartments. For example, we used playing cards to determine a 4 digit code and found pieces of lego throughout the experience to find out particular codes. For the full experience, we were allowed to ask for clues, which were presented like riddles, so we could proceed to the next task.

"In my opinion, the trip was fun and exciting but educational. The trip tested our logic and perseverance skills. I would recommend it to all".

Crystal Azzopardi 9A



Year 9 London Dungeons

A group of 35 pupils and 4 teachers embarked on the London Dungeon experience tour.

For all barring a few pupils including teachers this was their first time doing the tour. Most pupils were none the wiser as to what awaited them on the tour and the previewed material did not give too much away.

What was starkly evident was that Year 9 pupils find it extremely difficult when negotiation the unknown; with many nervously awaiting and anticipating when in the dark-not knowing what 'surprises' would greet them.

Pupils and staff alike appreciated the shouts, shrieks and laughter at the expense of each other's frightening experiences; which is a testament to the acting abilities on display. Similarly, pupils were able to learn and reinforce prior knowledge of tales and folk lore about the various characters like Jack The Ripper, Sweeney Todd and Guy Fawkes.

The torture chamber and plague doctor caused the most thrills especially for pupils who could not hide their fear at times.

Overall, the pupils benefitted and are better for the experience; in-turn gaining added exposure and insight into our British culture and history.

Madam Tussauds

On the 29th of March 2022, pupils from 9C & D had the pleasure of visiting Madam Tussaud, the wax work museum... Though it was so much more than that!



Having entered the building, the pupils were immediately ushered up a very narrow staircase, that seemed almost as if it could go on forever. Around one of the many twists of the corridor was what appeared to be our very first wax work.

As we all stopped to appreciate the intricate artwork that had gone into making the statue, the Madam Tussaud employee sprung to life and made the front runners of the group jump out of their skin!



First big scare over, the pupils later found themselves walking down a catwalk with the likes of Dame Judi Dench, Morgan Freeman, Nicole Kidman and many other award-winning actors. Each wax work was entirely handmade and made to measure, meaning they were the celebrity's exact height and width.

Later, the pupils got to meet some of their favourite movie characters including the Marvel heroes, King Kong, the Hunger Games, all things Star Wars and many more. There was even an Alien section, where pupils had to pass through the wreckage of an abandoned space ship and come face to face with a huge Alien, which was the second big jump of the day!

There was truly something for everyone at Madam Tussauds, as a little later the pupils met Olympic champion's Royalty where they took selfies and posed on the podiums of both sporting heroes and the Royals themselves.



Half way around the museum there was even a ride, where pupils sat in a London black cab and travelled through time, getting a look into London fashion through the ages, which was certainly a highlight of the trip.

Mr Swaby said his favourite part was seeing how the wax works themselves were made, whereas Mr Rigby said his favourite part was taking selfies with the stars!

Year 7 Netball

The year 7 netball club has amplified in numbers allowing us to have a consistent squad of 14. To note the girls have played in two local netball tournament days of which they showed a lot of progression from one to the next. The girls demonstrated an ability to work together, develop, communicate and improve their core skills.



The Streatham and Clapham tournament enabled the girls to apply their skills against a number of very conditioned and strong teams. However, this brought our first goal scorers of the term, which was very well deserved. On the back of this we look forward to arranging some workshops with Streatham and Clapham High School to develop further.

More recently the girls attended a tournament at The Norwood School where 10 schools attended. This was very successful inclusive of a 5-0 win over the Lambeth Academy. In addition, they narrowed the score line against Harris Clapham from a previous fixture; 3-0 to 2-1. Gabrielle Manu 7B was selected as a standout player at the tournament and for this she was awarded a medal. Other players who have excelled include Oluwafunmilayo Ilori 7B, Ekram Dar 7A and Nibras Ahmed 7A.



UK Maths Challenge 2022

On Thursday, 3rd February 2022, some of our year 9 pupils took part in the UK's most popular school competition known as the UK Maths Challenge.

UK Maths Challenge is a prestigious national competition which aims to stimulate mathematical thinking and encourage a problem-solving attitude amongst pupils. It gives pupils an opportunity to compete against other schools across the UK. The problems posed in the maths challenge not only require numerical knowledge and logical thinking but these problems test and stretch pupils' problem-solving skills and increase their familiarity with national competitions.

Results

Jason Tran	9A	'Best in year' and bronze certificate
Melania Skotarenko-Spicer	9A	Bronze certificate
Aaron Ahua	9A	Bronze certificate
Ryan Channer	9A	Bronze certificate
Uhunoma Obayangbona	9B	Bronze certificate
Kallai Boswell	9A	Bronze certificate



Congratulations to the pupils who participated but narrowly missed in

gaining a certificate Essa Pathan-Ocampo 9D, Menal Ahmed 9B, Katy Le 9B and Madinah Maksene 9B.

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

Pupil Reflection

"I feel it was a good and new experience in testing my skills as I had to use all of my knowledge to answer the challenging questions."

"I was pleased to take part in this competition as it tested and challenged my skills even more. I would like to see my scores soon and how well I can do on different tests."

"I would take the opportunity to take part in future maths competitions as I think Maths is fun and taking part in a competition would amplify that."

"I felt good to take part in this competition as it pushed me to overtake my limits."

A big congratulations to all our participants and winners!

Ms Bajaj

MISST Concert 2022

"I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning." Plato

Platanos College is proud to be part of the Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST). MiSST is an organisation that was formed in 2013 with the aim of promoting the music education of young people specifically focusing on classical music.

All of our Year 7 pupils take part in this programme with pupils are learning wither the violine or the flute as part of this programme. Pupils have been overwhelmingly positive about their participation in this and as a result of pupil

enthusiasm, we have already established an orchestra in the school.



On 3rd March 2022, twelve of our Year 7 pupils participated in MiSST's annual concert in the Queen Elizabeth Hall. The concert featured the MiSST orchestra as well as the MiSST choir. We are proud of the pupils who participated in both. In preparation for this performance, our pupils rehearsed in school and took part in rehearsals with schools across London. This involved rehearsing in the MiSST Saturday school.

We were delighted that so many of our pupils and their families were able to attend.

The Chair or Trustees of the Platanos Trust Humroy Whyte attended and he said the following:

'Please pass on my heartfelt congratulations to the MiSST pupils at Platanos College, for an outstanding performance at the concert. I thoroughly enjoyed listening and watching them playing their instruments in the orchestra and singing in the mass choir with so many other pupils from across the country. All the Platanos pupils said that the opportunity to participate and learn from other as a team in the events, helped build their confidence. Well done!'

Pupil feedback from the MiSST was overwhelmingly positive. Here is what our pupils had to say:

'I was really excited to go to such a performance. I hope that there are more opportunities to go to events like this. We travelled to the Queen Elizabeth Hall to play music and sing songs. It was really fun!'

Uchechukwu Ezinwa 7A



'I really enjoyed the experience in the Queen Elizabeth Hall as it helped me to gain confidence and helped me to meet new people. I think that it was an amazing thing to do as we have not had opportunities such as this recently because of the pandemic. I am very grateful to be part of a new group which got to sing for the first time in years. As I was on stage, I could see people in the crowd smiling. At that moment, I knew that I was doing the right thing. I loved getting to sing with my friends. Overall, it was an amazing experience.'

Joanna Ferreira 7A

'I was nervous at first in the concert but my nerves slowly started to pass. The music that was played was amazing. The music that was sang was amazing. I really enjoyed it. It was an opportunity to play to an audience.'

Santiago Pereira 7A

'The trip to the Southbank Centre was interesting and very exciting. I learnt many new things like how to perform on stage with a conductor too! When I got on that stage, I got very nervous and worried but it turned out perfectly fine. Playing on stage felt amazing and it was a great experience. I wish I could go there a second time too!'

Sarah Maksene 7A

Platanos College Orchestra

As part of our new partnership with the Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST), we launched our school orchestra in the Autumn term. This has been a chance for younger pupils to develop their skills on their new violin or flute, but is also be an opportunity for pupils who are more advanced on their instrument to learn, to be a role model to their peers, and to experience playing in an orchestra with other instruments.

Pupils have responded really positively to participation in the school's orchestra and the orchestra is currently working hard to prepare for the school's summer concert at which they will perform.



The scheme has really taken off and has received excellent feedback from staff and pupils.



First Story Writing Programme

Whisper it quietly, but in a quiet corner of Platanos College, on Tuesday afternoons after school, spells are woven and magic created. The raw ingredients? Words and phrases, commas and colons, rhymes and prose. The witches and wizards? The members of the Platanos College Writing Academy. The recipe? Well, that's for them to decide.

KS3 Reading Programme

This term we are pleased to announce that we have introduced a paired reading scheme whereby selected Year 9 pupils have been paired with selected Year 7 pupils to support them with their reading. Each Year 7 pupil taking part in the scheme reads with their Year 9 mentor twice a week during registration.

The aim of this programme is to boost the Year 7s' confidence, reading ability and enjoyment of reading whilst at the same time developing key employability skills and sense of responsibility in Year 9 pupils. All Year 9 pupils involved in the programme received specialist training from the school's EdPsychs Team- this team is composed of the school's Educational Psychologist and two full-time Assistant Psychologists.



Each half term a new cohort of academicians gather in 1D5, there to meet the Grand Master, visiting poet Dan Simpson. Dan is a word wizard of no little repute. He knows that there is magic inside each and every mind and heart in the room, but that it cannot be extracted by force of will. It requires suggestion, shapes, patterns, guidance perhaps ... and, above all, inspiration. He has ruses-a-plenty in his pockets and under his hat, ways to turn an unthought thought into a spark, into a beginning. Once the academicians'

imaginations have been lightly shaken, warmed up and then lit, all becomes possible.



Pen is put to paper and within minutes previously unmatched lines have become poetry.

In truth, the academicians are hungry to express themselves. They do not lack ideas: they draw these from their own emotions and interests, as well as those of their peers. They do not lack courage: to put their ideas out there is to invite scrutiny and this can be discomforting. They do not lack promise: even now, as their writing talents are being honed, their characters are being forged. They know in the battle of ideas that is to come, they will lead armies.

Each term, the best 'spells' are gathered together and published in an anthology. Each one gathers together a range of unique voices and each one bursts with passion and colour. To listen to these voices is to be inspired, even moved. If you are a budding witch or wizard of words, Miss Thompson wants to hear from you. Who knows? You may be in the next cohort of writing apprentices.

CHABOP Day

The Spring 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.



TERM 6
Monday 6 June 2022 – Friday 22 July 2022



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

HOLIDAY
Monday 4 April 2022 – Monday 18 April 2022

TERM 5
Tuesday 19 April 2022 – Friday 27 May 2022

HOLIDAY
Monday 30 May 2022 – Friday 3 June 2022