



**PLATANOS COLLEGE**

An outstanding school for  
pupils of all abilities

# Key Stage 4 Newsletter

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

*Attitude Determines Altitude*

## Key Dates / Events Calendar

<b>Monday 4 April 2022 – Monday 18 April 2022</b>	<b>Easter Holiday</b>
<b>Tuesday 19 April 2022 – Friday 27 May 2022</b>	<b>TERM 5</b>
<b>Monday 30 May 2022 – Friday 3 June 2022</b>	<b>Holiday</b>
<b>Monday 6 June 2022 – Friday 22 July 2022</b>	<b>TERM 6</b>

## Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we have reached the end of the Spring Term, Key stage 4 learners have proven once again how determined, ambitious and resilient they are.

As we move closer to the summer examination period for Year 11s (with less than 4 school weeks until the first examination-16<sup>th</sup> May 2022), we strongly recommend that pupils attend all their intervention sessions to support their preparations for their GCSE examinations.

Furthermore, excellent attendance and punctuality are more important than ever.

Year 10s have also been working extremely hard and have now experienced their second set of mock exams.

As well as their hard work in lessons, our Key stage 4 learners are also making the most of opportunities outside the classroom. We have

had a variety of visitors from colleges and sixth forms helping our pupils think about their future and post 16 studies. We have also had a number of trips; some of which are featured in this newsletter.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers, and indeed our pupils too, for their hard work and support this term. I wish you all an enjoyable, restful and safe Easter break and I look forward to another productive term.

Best Wishes,

*Mr. Edwards*  
**Key Stage 4 Pastoral Manager**

## Outstanding conduct during KS4 mock examinations

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Key stage 4 learners during their recent mock exams. Our pupils' conduct has been outstanding and we have been

impressed by their maturity, focus and work ethos.

### Year 10 Macbeth Trip



On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March, the whole of Year 10 visited Shakespeare's world-renowned Globe Theatre to watch one of the playwright's most celebrated tragedies and English Literature GCSE text: Macbeth.

After a short tube journey and windy walk across Blackfriars bridge, the students arrived in the buzz of the authentic open-air theatre, filled with over 1,500 local school children. With tickets in the theatre's yard (standing area), Platanos College pupils were situated in the heart of the action, just inches away from the Shakespearean-style wooden stage that had been artistically transformed into a ragged, muddy bog to enhance the play's natural Scottish setting.

As the play began, pupils were drawn in by the vibrant dancing, dynamic fight scenes and interesting use of music and sound that brought the scenes they have been reading during their English lessons to life. Despite heavy rain, the students persevered admirably to gain a truly authentic Shakespearean experience of open-air theatre that added to the atmosphere of the tragic play!



### Y11 Revision and Exam Tips for Parents and Carers



Success in exams is a team effort which involves parents/carers, the school and the pupil working together in partnership. Furthermore, it's proven that children who have support at home perform better and achieve higher GSCE grades.

To support your child to effectively study at home, here are a few tips:

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- Offer to help them create a revision timetable and to assist with them sticking to it. Remember that the earlier your child begins to revise, the better they will feel when it comes to the exams and the better chance they have of getting the grades they are capable of.
- As parents/ carers, one of the most important roles is to make home life as calm and supportive as possible for your child; especially at such a stressful and emotionally charged period. Your interest, support and words of encouragement will play a vital role in helping your child remain calm and focused at this important period. When your child feels worried or stressed, listen to their concerns, help them to keep perspective and encourage them to keep trying.
- Getting enough sleep is also essential to performing well during exam season. A good night sleep will ensure your child arrives to school well rested, calm, energised and alert. It will also give them the best chance to learn and retain information. By the same token, encourage your child to put down all technology 30 minutes before bed, as the blue light emitted can significantly interfere with sleep patterns.
- Whilst revising or studying it's important that distractions are eliminated and firm boundaries around screen time needs to be set to ensure learning time is maximised.
- Food is also vitally important during revision and exams. Food and drinks

rich in sugar and caffeine (i.e. chocolates/sweets, fizzy drinks, energy drinks etc.) causes unproductive highs, followed by even worse lows.

- Ensure your child have a quiet place to revise, away from any distractions. This will help to decrease stress and create a good environment for them.
- Ensure you child arrive to school on time for their exams. There are no allowances for late arrivals. External exams can only be taken at the scheduled examination time.

We wish our Year 11 pupils every success in their upcoming GCSE examinations and we look forward to celebrating their success in August 2022.



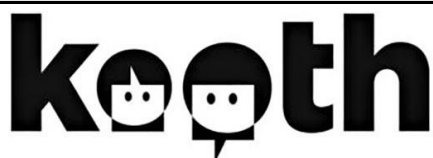
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## Kooth - online counselling service for young people



Kooth is a free online counselling and emotional wellbeing support service available to all young people aged 11-25 in Lambeth.

Young people accessing Kooth can:

- Book virtual drop-ins and chat sessions with experienced counsellors
- Seek support or advice on any topic, from coping with exam stress or bullying, help with an eating disorder, dealing with suicidal thoughts or handling sexual abuse.
- Browse through a wide range of self-help materials
- Share their experience through live moderated forums
- Track their thoughts and feeling through journals and goal trackers

There are no thresholds or waiting lists, they simply register on the Kooth website to start receiving help and young people can access the service 365 days a year, from 12 noon until 10 pm weekdays, and 6pm until 10pm weekends.

Further details of this can be found at [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com).

## Platform+ Sessions at Westminster School

# PLATFORM<sup>®</sup>

A Westminster School Initiative

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

The pupils; Bushra, Osarodion, Nina and Fares have participated in learning sessions on Saturdays across the term. These sessions have enabled pupils to learn in more depth about the different STEM and Liberal Arts subjects alongside pupils from schools across London. This allowed for high level discussions and a focus on the more challenging aspects of STEM and Liberal Arts through engagement with like-minded pupils.

A special mention must go to Nina and Fares who have been commended for their efforts on the Liberal Arts course.

The sessions will continue into the Summer term and culminate with pupils presenting an independent project to their peers and leaders of the course. We wish them the best of luck for the rest of the programme.

## Year 10 KS4 Newsletter Team

Once again, our Year 10 KS4 Newsletter Team have done a phenomenal job of the termly pupil-led newsletter. Skilfully edited by Anastasia Shovkoplyas, the Spring 2022 KS4 Newsletter covers a range of topical issues, including the Invasion of Ukraine, the impact of Covid on our KS4 pupils who are about to sit their GCSE examinations and argumentative cases on Feminism. However, not all of the articles cover such serious topics; the pupils have also written some truly fascinating pieces on The Royal Family, Gaming and have interviewed two past pupils and a member of staff.

For the Spring Term Specials, the Newsletter Team decided to focus on A Kingdom of Co-Existence - a section wholly dedicated to the animal Kingdom and our relationship with it. Amongst the articles in the Specials Section, pupils explored the issues of overfishing, the use of animals in medical research, the wider impact of the movie Jaws on shark populations and the benefits of having your own pet.

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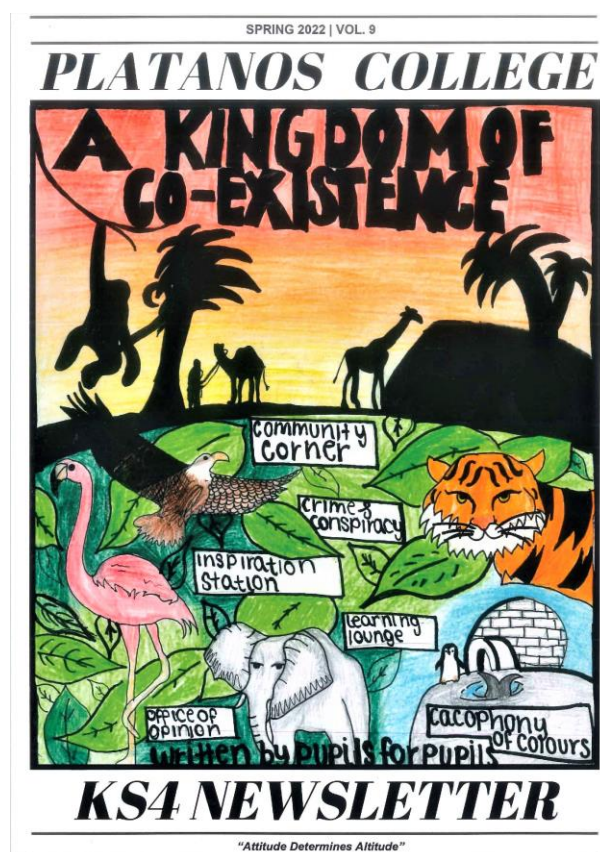
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Pupils also provide their tips on how to keep energy bills low as households are impacted by price hikes, how to avoid anxiety when watching news about global events and how to get support for ourselves or those we know who may have special needs or disabilities.

The Year 10s have done a brilliant job in covering a wide range of issues and we're sure you will enjoy reading the Platanos College Spring Term KS4 Newsletter - written by pupils, for pupils.



### Year 11 Drop-down Sessions

As part of our commitment to support our pupils progress and attainment, we have organised a range of specialised revision drop down sessions for our year 11 pupils at the end of term.

Overall, attendance was excellent and our pupils worked extremely well. My thanks to our staff involved in the programme for this term.

Please see feedback from three of our colleagues below:

*"The Maths Drop down sessions have been very productive. Pupils focused on some units in Maths which they have found difficult and they have done well. They have practised answering exam questions on a range of topics, have positively engaged with the materials we have provided and have made progress in their learning."*

*Pupils were grouped in some classes based on their needs and were given support. Some pupils were also placed into smaller groups and were given additional support by the other Maths teachers. Pupils found the sessions useful.*

*The pupils doing Further Maths also found the sessions useful. Their teacher reviewed their recent Mock exam papers to ensure they understood what they needed to do to improve and they also managed to complete another set of exam papers in the drop-down session. Overall the Maths drop down session was beneficial our year 11 pupils."*

**Mr Persaud**

*"The attendance to triple and combined Science was good. Pupils were very responsive and did a lot of work. The setting was a bit informal, and this allowed student to be more relaxed in the classroom. This contributed to them increasing their work output."*

**Mr Rigby**

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## UK Maths Challenge 2022



On Thursday, 3rd February 2022, some of our year 10 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

Xamza Isse	'Best in School' and Silver certificate
Jeorge Roberto	Silver certificate
Mert Aydin	Bronze certificate
Muaze Nur Hussen	Bronze certificate
Fares Ouanoufi	Bronze certificate
Orban O'Brien	Bronze certificate
Arafath Mohammed Khan	Bronze certificate
Enoch Duguma	Bronze certificate
Osarodion Obayangbona	Bronze certificate
Najma Mohamud	Bronze certificate
Omar Aouchiche	Bronze certificate



Congratulations to the pupils who participated but narrowly missed in gaining a certificate Cristavao Nunes Texeira and Abdullahi Mohamed.

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

*"The questions rather shocked me with how challenging they were but overall it was a great opportunity for me to see the vastness of mathematics as a whole and will benefit me in the near future."*

*"I feel confident with my ability in maths after completing this challenge as I believe I have done quite well."*

*"I would like to take part in future maths competitions as it would provide me with further experience and would give a chance to better my score."*

*"It's a fun experience and a really good challenge for my skill. It made me think about maths questions in different ways."*

**A big congratulations to all our participants and winners!**

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## Year 10 Money Management Workshop



The week before the Easter break at Platanos College was a busy one. All year groups have a bespoke timetable that included: trips to enhance learning, workshops, subject drop down days and CHABOP day. Year 10 pupils had the opportunity to take part in a Money Management workshop on Tuesday 29th March.

On the day, pupils were split into groups and given two thousand pounds as their 'salary' for one month. Pupils were then asked to budget for one month. They had to take rent, bills, food, savings and other necessities into consideration when budgeting to see how much money they would be left with at the end of the month. Each team had very different ideas about how much it would cost per month to rent a room in London!

When pupils realised how much rent, bills and other necessities can cost each month, they considered their budgets quite differently.

Additionally, throughout the workshop, pupils were asked their opinion on a variety of money related situations. One such question posed to pupils was, "Do you think that borrowing money is ever a good thing?"

The majority of pupils stated that they thought it was never a good idea to borrow money. While this can be an intelligent response, pupils didn't realise that sometimes borrowing may be essential to be able to own property or a car. Pupils also discovered other aspects of borrowing to be aware of, such as interest

rates and different establishments that lend money such as Credit Unions.



*Rio, Molly and Arianny pictured mid budget*



*Keightley, Anastasia and Enoch deciding how to prioritise their 'money' during the workshop.*

## Year 10 Equality and Diversity Workshop



Year 10 pupils attended an Equality and Diversity Workshop on Thursday 31st of March. There were many elements to the workshop. Topics covered included: The history of migration, British History, racial

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equality, sexual equality among others. Pupils found the workshop engaging and informative.

Racial equality was discussed at length as well as the many stereotypes that exist around race. The facilitator drew on her own experiences of these stereotypes to provide pupils with an example of how anyone can be judged on their race or ethnicity.

Throughout the workshop pupils were reminded that living in London, we are surrounded by people from so many different races, religions, ethnicities and sexualities. We live in a diverse city, but even in a diverse city, racism still exists, inequality still exists, stereotyping still exists. Pupils were reminded of the negative impact that these situations can have on those who experience them. They were reminded that being open minded in their views is important.

Many pupils spoke out throughout the workshop and expressed their opinions and ideas around several of the topics that were covered. Towards the end of the session the pupils took part in a quiz on what they had covered in the session and it was clear that they had all gained valuable knowledge from the workshop.

**Hamdi Mohamed** said *“The session was very interesting, educational and eye-opening. We learned many things about racial inequality around the world”*.

**Reezah Donaldson** added *“I really enjoyed the session, the inclusivity of the different world issues. I also appreciated the self-awareness and respect shown by the pupils. I appreciated the involvement of LGBTQ+ issues and the discussion around the BLM movement”*.



Year 10 pupils listening to a speech on the History of Migration

### Year 11 Drama Trip

On Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> February, the Drama year 11 cohort went to watch *Small Island* at The National Theatre. As part of their GCSE written exam, the pupils are expected to review a live performance of a published play. With the National just on our doorstep, a production at their multi-theatre venue seemed the obvious choice.

*Small Island* was performed in the largest theatre at the National, named after Laurence Olivier, (a name that went straight over most of our pupil's heads!) who was the first director at the National theatre as well as an actor who dominated the stage and screen of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. His statue can be found just outside the theatre, on the Southbank and became our group meeting place for the evening.

Inside the auditorium itself, pupils were stunned by the sheer size of the theatre, which can seat 1,150 people. With the seats full, it was time for the performance to begin where pupils enjoyed a spectacular theatrical version of the book *Small Island* written by Andrea Levy. This stunning production tells the story of how lives can cross paths due to war, immigration and attraction and deals with themes such as racism, prejudice, love and loss. The story takes place in both Jamaica and the UK, which made for a truly inspiring set design and scene transitions. The director Rufus Norris employed multiple lighting, sound and staging techniques that the pupils

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were able to identify during the interval, whilst also tucking into their snacks!

After the show, all pupils commented on how well put together and how well acted the performance was and said they had a wonderful time experiencing a West-end London production as big as this.



### Year 11 Graduation

We look forward to celebrating the achievements of our Year 11 cohort.

The year 11 graduation will take place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022.

Invitations will be sent out in the post after the Easter break.

### 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 these changes.

If there are any changes, please let us know by informing the main office as soon as possible or email [info@platanoscollege.com](mailto:info@platanoscollege.com).

### Term Dates

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

TERM 6  
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