

Key Stage 4 Newsletter

Friday 22nd July 2022

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Key Dates / Events Calendar	
Friday 22 July 2022 – Thursday 1 September 2022	Summer Holiday
Thursday 25 August 2022	GCSE Results Day
Thursday 1 September 2022 & Friday 2 September	Staff Inset Days
Monday 5 September 2022	Year 7 (only) Start Date
Wednesday 7 September 2022	Year 8 & Year 9 Start Date
Thursday 8 September 2022	Year 10 & Year 11 Start Date
Monday 24 October 2022 – Friday 4 November 2022	Autumn Half Term Break
Monday 7 November 2022 – Friday 16 December 2022	TERM 2

Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers.

It has been another excellent year at Platanos College and everyone is now looking forward to the summer break.

It has been wonderful to witness our Keystage 4 pupils continuing to engage with their learning both within the classroom and beyond and many such activities are represented in this newsletter.

As the academic year draws to a close, we said farewell to our Year 11 pupils at our Graduation Assembly and we wish them all the best as they move on to pastures new and post 16 studies.

We are incredibly proud of their achievements in the 5 years they have been at Platanos college and we are sure that all their hard work and diligence will have paid off when they collect their GCSE results in August.

Our year 10 pupils have also made us proud and they too have had a very productive term. They recently sat their end of year assessment and have attended a comprehensive programme of drop-down teaching sessions in preparation for their transition into year 11.

We were also very pleased to see many of our year 10 parents and carers at our recent Year 10 Academic Review Day. The day was a great success and offered a wonderful opportunity to work in partnership to support your child to achieve and to discuss your child's progress.

Finally, on behalf of all of the staff, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and I hope that your child has had a successful and enjoyable year. Your contribution and support have created a wealth of wonderful learning opportunities and we value your support immensely.

We look forward to welcoming all our pupils back in September; especially our new year 7 pupils and we wish you a very happy, healthy and well-deserved Summer break.

Very best wishes,

Mr. Edwards Key Stage 4 Pastoral Manager

Year 11 Graduation Ceremony



The Year 11 Graduation Ceremony took place on Friday 1st July; a significant climax to the academic year. Our graduates all looked elegant and smart in their attire and the evening was a massive success.

The evening started with a formal assembly in which we celebrated our pupil's achievement and learning journey and presented nominated subject awards for outstanding attainment, progress and effort. The winner of this year's Guy Lee Award went to Mary Pardo. The recipient of the Elizabeth Oweradaba Award (nominated by the Science

department) was Sihan Ahmed and the winner of the Vince Snider Award (nominated by ICT Department) was Asmaa Otmani.



Mary Pardo

Asmaa Otmani

Sihan Ahmed



Year 11 pupils arriving for the Graduation Ceremony



Our Year 11 pupils during the Graduation Ceremony

Some of our Year 11 pupils collecting their subject awards

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Asmaa Otmani

"The last 5 years has been a roller coaster of emotions; there have been highs and the have been lows. Whilst it felt like a long period of time, the time passed quickly. Looking back, I appreciate every bit of the journey and I think I will miss it."



Sunbal Amanullah

"It was been an eventful five year and the last 2 year in particular has been quite traumatic, with the pandemic. However, the people here have both been delightful and supportive and I will miss them all."



Levaan Baiden

"When I first joined Platanos College in Year 7, I did not know anyone. However, I made friends along the way, though I was nervous at first. I joined many clubs, including playing for the football and basketball teams. Two years later, COVID-19 came about, which hit many people hard. Schools were closed and we had to adapt and change the way we engage with learning. Before I knew it, I was in Year 10 and starting my GCSE lessons. The schoolwork we had to complete was very different to KS3 and it became more challenging. A year later, I was starting my GCSE examinations, which was stressful, but I managed to get through it. Now here I am, spending my last day in Platanos College, my last time in this school. I are immensely proud of my achievements at Platanos College, including becoming Head Boy and I am also proud to have been a member of this school community.

My final message to the remaining pupils at Platanos College is for them to enjoy their every moment of their school lives, because 5 years goes quickly; and most importantly to work hard and remember attitude does determines altitude."

Leavers Reflection

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Year 10 Drop Down

Year 10 pupils working diligently in our recent drop-down teaching sessions





Keystage 4 Pupil Leadership Opportunities

Engaging pupils in leadership roles can equip them with the necessary skills, attributes and values needed to be highly successful individuals

At Platonos college, we acknowledge this and offer a range of leadership opportunities to develop these keys skills which will benefit our pupils within the school community and beyond.

In September 2022, our keystage 4 pupils are encouraged to apply for either a Trainee Leaders role (year 10 only) the post Head Boy, Head Girl, Senior Prefect and Prefect.

Pupils can obtain an application form at the start of the new academic year and we encourage all pupils to apply.

Once successful, these pupil leaders will perform various duties in and around the school, represent our school in key events

across the calendar and act as role models to their peers.

We look forward to receiving your child's application form and wash them good luck in their pursuit of a leadership role.

Finally, we would like to extend a huge thank vou to the pupil leaders of 2021- 2022.



Important Notice - Keystage 4 School **Hours for New Academic Year**



In September 2022, the school hours for Keystage 4 pupil will be 8.40am to 3.30pm.

To be successful this new academic year, it's important that parent and carers re-establish proper routines that will help their child become more productive in lessons.

Please ensure your child goes to bed at a sensible time and gets a good night sleep so that they may arrive to school in the best possible frame of mind for learning.

Thank you in anticipation for your cooperation and support.

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Keystage 4 Attendance & Punctuality

ATTENDANCE MATTERS. ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

Attendance and punctuality continue to be a key priority at Platanos College and it is arguably one of the most significant indicators of your child's academic success. If a child is not in school regularly they are not able to fully access the curriculum and learning opportunities available to them, so pupils should aim for 100% attendance as this will ensure they do not miss any learning.

We therefore ask for your support in ensuring that your child attends school every day and they arrive on time for the start of the school day.

Whilst the Academy accepts that there are times when absence from school cannot be avoided, these occasions must be kept to a minimum.

As with attendance, punctuality to school is equally important and every minute missed adds up to a significant amount of learning time lost over the academic year. Furthermore, pupils who arrive to school late miss starting the day with their peers and the beginning of lessons. This can also disrupt the class and the teacher.

Finally, many of our Key Stage 4 pupils will also require references for colleges, sixth-form and apprenticeships etc. Consequently, punctuality and attendance will be a main factor that will feature within the school's feedback. Therefore, high levels of unauthorised absences or poor punctuality to school may hinder your child's transition into post 16 education.

Year 10 visit to International law firm CMS



On Friday 20th May 2022, some of our year 10 pupils were invited to attend the offices of CMS, one of the leading tax law firms in the country. It was an opportunity for our pupils to expand their understanding of the legal sector, and to understand the importance of the law on future climate change. It provided our pupils with a valuable insight into the world of corporate work. It was also a chance for the pupils to experience first-hand, what it is like for a young expert working in the field of law.

This particular workshop focused on the pressing nature of climate change and the need to legally challenge large corporations in their environmental malpractice. Our pupils, the help constructed with of lawyers, arguments to help decarbonise various business sectors and create a legal policy to target net zero carbon emissions amongst businesses. Our pupils presented these arguments to the lawyers and their peers. We were not only incredibly proud to witness the commitment of our pupils in helping to shape our future, but also the way in which our students spoke so passionately about the issues facing our world.

Our pupils left CMS feeling incredibly empowered and inspired to create a positive change in society. I hope that the programme has increased our pupils' future ambitions and has positively influenced their prospective career paths

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Year 10 Social Media Workshop by CMS

Following a first successful trip to CMS Law Firm, a group of our 10 pupils were invited back for another workshop, this time on Social Media and the Law.

The workshop focused on and explored the concept of freedom of expression and the impact of Social Media on the lives of young people who are amongst the most prolific social media users.

The workshop commenced with an introductory quiz on the different types of Social Media platforms in relation to global usage. The pupils then proceeded to analyse a number of different social media posts and discussed whether the each was appropriate or not, whether any laws were broken and if there were consequences to follow.

The pupils then went on to explore Article 10 of the Human Rights Act.: Freedom of expression, and how this is protected by Constitutional Laws, before considering how this applies to Social Media practice. Finally,

they discussed a number of issues related to the use of social media - in particular, negative outcomes and the lasting impact of previous post.

Ms Thompson reported "once again, our pupils were fantastic, and totally engaged in the workshop. They did a great job of working together and presented well thought out debates."

Michelle Le said "I found the workshop very insightful and it allowed me to understand how social media is used currently and integrated into our daily lives".

Omar Aouchiche said, "much has been said about the risk and responsible use of social media by young people, however this is not a new problem. Social media is simply evolving and young people must be educated on how to navigate through those associated risk."





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English taster day at King's College London



On Tuesday 14th June, 20 students from Year 10 travelled to King's College London's campus along the Strand to take part in an English taster day. Students were able to analyse poetry they wouldn't ordinarily study on the GCSE curriculum. They even analysed music videos and hymns!

Students were then escorted to the Maughan Library, one of the biggest university libraries in the UK since World War 2. Its foundations came from an old chapel which you can still visit inside the library today — the original chapel was built in 1232 by Henry III! It is a Grade 2 listed building but different wings have been added to it to make it the size it is today. King's College London acquired it in 2001 after it was the Public Record Office for 150 years. Students explored the 'Reading Room', which features hundreds of books and a dodecagonal glass dome roof!

Some feedback from the pupils:

'This trip impacted my understanding of university because it shows how much independence you have over your learning. I learnt to be more openminded.' 'The university gave us very diverse opinions and new perspectives as we were with people from other schools so we had lots of different perspectives.'

'I now have greater understanding of how university lectures differ to secondary school teaching.'

'University seems like something I look forward to in the future.'





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Year 10 Trip to The Photographers' Gallery



This June Ms Peliza took all Year 10 GCSE Photography students to central London to visit *The Photographers' Gallery*.

The trip was packed with inspiration - from presenting our students with a broad range of ideas from successful professional photographers to viewing striking subject matter, from scrutinising the deployment of a of photographic techniques appraising a variety of ways to present work, it was an opportunity for our GCSE students to add greater depth to their emerging portfolios. Each floor of the building house its own gallery. For some students, seeing Christian Thompson's helped portraiture connect personal identity to their picture taking. For others seeing a working camera obscura was the highlight. However, visiting the exhibitions was only part of the experience as students also embraced the opportunity to take photographs to be later worked on once back in the classroom.





As ever, our students' behaviour was outstanding and an enjoyable experience was had by all. Please see our pupils' feedback below:

Pupil Reflection

"I think the day was a really good experience for us as photographers. The pictures of human form really inspired me to want to start my personal photoshoot. I want to link my photoshoot to current social issues that surround us today, I am particularly interested in the general manipulation of the mind. From looking at the black and white section of The Photographers gallery' I know I want to develop my photoshoot with black and white edits that show a more emotional and mysterious side."

Molly Beaton 10B1

On our way to The Photographers Gallery, I took photos of the detailed columns and fancy buildings located in Oxford St. Inside the gallery, many sets of photographers were showcased, my favourite being the photos showing strong emotions such as sadness and vulnerability. I specifically liked the photographer Chris Steele – Perkins who

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documented people's lives in black and white and vividly displayed emotions which left me, as the viewer full of questions and wondering what each individual person's story is. I would also like to create this impression within my personal photoshoot."

Ana Marques 10A2

Year 10 pupils expand their history knowledge with a trip to Hampton Court Palace



As a History GCSE curriculum enrichment event, Year 10 pupils visited Hampton Court Palace in Surrey on Wednesday 20th July 2022. This trip was tailored towards the GCSE unit on Elizabethan England (1558-1603).

The aim of the trip was to give our pupils a real insight into Tudor England, to consolidate the learning conducted in the classroom and develop our pupils' skills of historical enquiry.

Our year 10 pupils were guided through the impressive Tudor Kitchens, explored the Privy Council chambers, the magnificent Banqueting Hall and traditional Chapel. They enjoyed a relaxing lunch sitting in the imposing gardens of the Palace and had the opportunity to navigate their way out of the famous and oldest surviving hedge maze in the UK.

Staff members accompanying the pupils were certainly impressed with our pupils' attitude and behaviour throughout the day and a Railway Enforcement Officer at Hampton

Court train station approach the school to echo similar sentiments.



Our pupils relaxing and having their lunch in the Garden of the Palace



Some of the pupils taking part in a game of rounders during their lunch break.



Our pupils in the Privy Garden

Hampton Court Pupil Reflection

"Hampton Court was beautiful and the weather was pleasant. My favourite part of the trip was the tour of the chapel, it was beautiful and peaceful."

Bailey Roopnarine

"I really enjoyed visiting Hampton Court. It was great fun to explore the different areas within the palace and to see where a Tudor monarch lived. I

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love the maze and my favourite part was the garden and exotic flowers."

Pelumi Olasupo

"Hampton Court was a really engaging trip; I learnt a lot. I loved getting an insight into how the monarch and servants would have lived".

Maryrose Appah

Uniform Code of Conduct

Please ensure that your child has the correct uniform for their return to school:

- This includes hair cuts which should be of a straight forward style – natural colour without lines or patterns. Lines cut into eyebrows are not allowed.
- Boys are not permitted to wear earrings. Girls are permitted to wear a small stud in the lobe of each ear. No other piercings are permitted.
- Uniform includes: school blazer, school tie in house colours, formal white collar shirt, grey or black trousers (not denim), black or grey skirt for girls, black or grey socks, school shoes (not boots/ canvas shoes/ trainer style shoes).

• Hair colour must be natural

 For girls who wear a hijab this must be only plain dark blue, plain black, plain white or plain grey.

Pupils who return to school in January with breaches of school uniform will be sent home until this is corrected.



Pupils are reminded to bring all their school equipment to school on a daily basis.

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

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

I hope you will be able to support us to maintain a positive learning ethos by encouraging your child to carry all the above equipment to school on a daily basis.

Many thanks in advance for your support with this.

Loitering after school in the local area

A number of pupils have been seen loitering in the local area surrounding the school after they have been formally dismissed from the school site.

We do not wish for this behaviour to impact our excellent relationship with the local community.

Aside from the school's reputation and its relationship with our neighbours, your child needs to consider the wider implications of their behaviour and the importance of being good ambassadors for the school.

Consequently, such behaviour is not something that we are willing to accept. We

Equipment

expect all our pupils to make their way home directly after school and all pupils to be on their very best behaviour, being respectful and considerate to others, following staff instructions and upholding the good name of the school.

Similarly, young people who are overly boisterous, loud and disruptive on public transport can create tensions and problematic journeys for both passengers and transport operators. Please ensure you reiterate expectations to your child as to how they should conduct themselves whilst traveling to and from school via public transport.

If your child is involved in any anti-social behaviour whilst in our school uniform, we will not hesitate in recommending the highest sanction, including a substantial fixed term exclusion and being placed in front of the governors of the school.

We thank you in anticipation for your support in this matter.

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

Term Dates

SUMMER HOLIDAY

Friday 22 July 2022 – Thursday 1 September 2022

TERM 1

Monday 5 September 2022– Friday 21 October 2022

HOLIDAY

Monday 24 October 2022 – Friday 4 November 2022

TERM 2

Monday 7 November 2022 – Friday 16 December 2022

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Farewell!
Good Luck & Best Wishes in all your
future endeavours.

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