



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

Year 7 Start of Term Newsletter

Friday 9th September 2022

Attitude Determines Altitude

Message to our new Year 7 pupils

Welcome to the Platanos College Year 7 Start of Term newsletter.

It has been a pleasure to welcome our new year 7 pupils to Platanos College this week and support their transition to secondary education.

All pupils have displayed an outstanding attitude to their learning across all subjects. They have displayed impeccable manners and respect to both members of staff and their fellow peers.

It has been wonderful to see the pupils taking the opportunity to form new friendships and to get to know new members of staff as they start their secondary school journey here at Platanos College.

The pupils have spoken glowingly about their first experiences of Platanos College and have expressed their enthusiasm and excitement regarding the coming term.

I hope that all pupils, parents and carers have found the transition into secondary education a positive experience and are looking forward to successfully working in partnership with Platanos College for the benefit of each pupil.

If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at year7pastoral@platanoscollege.com.

Mr Hobson

First Day

We started the week with an assembly to welcome all year 7 pupils to our school community. During the assembly all pupils were taught about what it means to be a pupil at Platanos College in line with the school motto 'Attitude determines Altitude'. A selection of pupils then bravely spoke to the year group explaining their experience of our summer school, that took place in August 2022.



The pupils looked outstanding in their school uniform and listened keenly throughout.



The pupils were then placed into their tutor groups where they met their tutor and members of their form groups before going on a tour of the school site. All pupils enjoyed a free school lunch in the school canteen with many commenting positively on the varied range of food available.



The pupils enjoyed playing and socialising with their peers in the year 7 playground before being taught how to line up in their tutor groups at the end of lunch time to ensure a safe and orderly entry into the school building.



Upon the pupils return to their tutor rooms they continued with sessions from the Year 7 Induction Programme which included a school tour.



The school day concluded with a year group assembly with each pupil being congratulated for completing their first day of secondary school. It was outstanding to see that so many pupils had already earned merits in line with the school CHABOP system.



Each tutor group had a pupil representative who spoke eloquently about their first experience of secondary school.



During the assembly every pupil was awarded with a reading book as a gift to celebrate joining Platanos College.



The pupils were dismissed class by class. It was evident that year 7 were tired after their first full day of secondary education, however they were very excited to return the very next day to see what lessons they would be taught.



Induction Programme

As the week progressed the pupils have been working on an induction programme designed to support their transition into secondary education which has included the following topics;

- Being hygienic
- Organisation and timetables
- Communication
- Dealing with conflict
- How to move around the school building including a school tour
- Homework and meeting deadlines
- Uniform and equipment
- Travelling to and from school
- Health and Safety
- Safeguarding



Tutor Welcomes

Dear 7A,

*7A, a huge "Well done!" to each of you. Your conduct in this, your very first week at Platanos College, has been exemplary. You should be proud of yourselves, just as I am of you. I have greatly enjoyed meeting you and am much looking forward to learning more about you, your strengths and weaknesses, skills and interests. I have already had other members of staff telling me about their positive experiences of you, which is most encouraging. Stay positive and there are no limits to what you can achieve. Remember: "**Attitude Determines Altitude**". And keep Rocky's words in mind, there is much wisdom in them.*

Mr Etheridge and Ms Gomez

Dear 7B,

7B have made a great start at Platanos College, having conducted yourself with a positive attitude towards the school rules and displaying excellent manners. Each one of you have shown that you are enthusiastic to learn new things in life, which shows that you are capable to achieve targets. I look forward to this year and to see what you are able to achieve; stay enthusiastic, kind and I hope you enjoy the school year ahead.

Mr Vaishampayan

Dear 7C,

It has been a great pleasure to meet and get to know more about each one of you this week. Everyone has already started to display an excellent attitude and I was impressed by the level of engagement and contribution made by the class throughout the week. I am also delighted to be teaching you maths this year and I look forward to seeing the progress and achievement that you will be making. Let's work together to have a fun and productive year 7C!

Ms Ahn

Welcome to 7D,

You have had an excellent start to the term and it has been a delight to get to know each of you. Every day you have conducted yourself in a polite and kind manner and all of your contributions to tutor time have been extremely positive. I have high hopes for you all this year and I look forward to seeing all of your achievements. Keep up the fantastic energy – you'll be great!

Ms Sammut

Dear 7E,

"7E have been brilliant at settling in at Platanos College, they have worked

incredibly hard to learn the rules and routines of our school and established warm friendships with each other. It has been wonderful to witness the passion and eagerness to learn and improve, it is this attitude that will ensure that our pupils thrive and succeed at our school.

I asked our pupils about how they felt after their first week at Platanos, Eva wrote that she enjoys life at Platanos college because the lessons are fun and informative. Carlito was keen to tell the class that being at Platanos College makes him feel 'excited for the future' and that he looks forward to having a fresh start. Nicole exclaimed that it was the 'best day of my life!'

I am truly delighted to be your form tutor this year and I have loved hearing all the great feedback from your teachers. I am sure that our positive determination will continue throughout our Platanos College career."

Mr Ahmed

Dear 7W,

You have come to Platanos College with such positive attitude that it has been a pleasure to see you settle in as a group and a joy getting to know each one of you individually.

I hope you continue with this positive attitude and enthusiasm to learn and achieve great things. Remember that your "attitude determines your altitude". I am grateful for having been given the opportunity to be your form tutor. We have so many exciting learning adventures ahead of us as we learn and grow together.

Ms Lopez

Anti-Bullying Workshop

During Year 7s transition programme pupils took part in an Anti-Bullying lesson, where they had to work together to enforce an understanding of bullying and its impact on people's lives. This session was successfully delivered by a number of Year 10 pupils, who led year 7 pupils to explore the different types of bullying, how to identify bullying and what to do if they see someone being bullied. This opportunity allowed year 7's to understand the seriousness of bullying and see how Platanos College implements the Anti-Bullying policy, so that all pupils can feel safe and comfortable to come to school. The Year 10 pupil leaders delivered an excellent presentation that captivated both pupils and teachers alike.



CHABOP System

Over the course of the week Year 7 pupils have been introduced to the school reward system called CHABOP. Pupils were advised that CHABOP stands for the following;

Classwork
Homework
Attendance
Behaviour
Organisation
Punctuality

This was followed by outlining the various methods used to celebrate pupil achievements in relation to CHABOP.

Top 10 Pupils

1. *Jasmine Jacinto Pascoal – 790 merits*
2. *Nicole White – 770 merits*
3. *Isaiah Gentle – 755 merits*
4. *Carlito Elliot Russell – 735 merits*
5. *Ria Nicholson-Fatudimu – 720 merits*
6. *Mara Sofia Sequeira Ferreira – 710 merits*
7. *Eva Channer – 635 merits*
8. *Mariana Afonso Moura – 630 merits*
9. *Jahmannie Bollers – 620 merits*
10. *Taylor Joel Encalada Cruz – 575 merits*

Portfolio for Learning

Year 7 pupils started their Portfolio for Life this week. This is designed to meet the needs of our school community and ensure that we deliver the statutory PSHE and RSE curriculum.

Portfolio for Life lessons develop pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural skills. Pupils study a range of topics in these lessons such as Health and Well-being, Relationships and Living in the Wider World. In Portfolio for Life lessons, pupils learn a range of skills which directly relate to the world of business. As a Business and Enterprise school, we encourage our pupils to value and practice enterprise in all its forms. This is a course designed to develop the skills and attitudes pupils need to prepare them for their future success in life and work.

Pupils receive certificates for their work in Portfolio for Life lessons termly. They also receive certificates for wider contributions to the school community. This includes participation in clubs and partaking in wider school programmes such as the leadership programme. Pupils will be given a 'Record of Achievement' folder to place their certificates in. Year 7 have received their record of achievement this week

and have begun working towards their first certificate in Portfolio for Life lessons.

Year 7 pupils begin by focusing on 'Well-being'. They started the week with a transition programme designed to help them familiarise themselves with Platanos College and with their new teachers and peers. Over the course of this term, pupils will learn more about the school community and learn about the importance of skills such as resilience.

It has been an excellent start for Year 7s in Portfolio for Life lessons and we look forward to celebrating their successes in the subject over the course of the academic year!

Start of lessons

On Wednesday 7th September 2022 pupils started their lessons in line with their timetables. This included English, Maths, Science, PE, Music and Art lessons. The pupils were particularly excited to visit the Art department and take part in their music lesson where they were able to use musical instruments.



Pupil Voice

Some of our new Year 7 pupils were asked about how they found their first week of secondary school. Here is what they have to say:

"I have really enjoyed my first week at Platanos College. I have really liked my Maths lessons and I really enjoy the tutor lessons." **Zahra Rezay 7A**

"On the first day I made lots of new friends, we had the opportunity to get to know each other and play together. I really liked the Anti-Bullying lesson because I felt like it made lots of people realise what bullying can actually cause and knowing the school is really strict on the subject makes me feel even safer to be in the school" **Tiago Silva Jesus 7A**

"I enjoy Platanos College because the food is amazing and my Year 6 teacher made it seem hard when it isn't, I really love the uniform. While I have been here I have enjoyed each day talking with my friends." **T-Jhon Simms-Wright 7B**

"What I like about this school is that the teachers are very nice, I have enjoyed the food and all the lessons. The teachers are very kind and welcoming." **Roumayssa Mouchkat 7B**

"The teachers are all so supportive and helped me when I asked for help with my work or something I was struggling with, and I'm grateful for the time I have had at this school." **Benjamin Adegoke 7C**



"I enjoy Platanos College because I've only just start a few days ago and I've already learning a lot of new things. I prefer secondary school over primary school because I am experiencing new

interesting and fun things that I haven't experience in primary school. I rate my first week a 9/10." **Dayna Beaumont 7C**

"I like this school because in primary school we didn't have any many food options at lunch time. I have had the chance to make new friends and the teachers are kind to us as well." **Ivy Morrison 7D**

"At Platanos College I have enjoyed seeing and making new friends. I have liked most of the lessons as they are interactive and enjoyable and the food is fantastic. In addition, the school tour was amazing, my favourite lesson so far has been Maths. I hope that I am ready for the fun challenges ahead of me at Platanos College" **Oluwapamimo Adesanya 7D**

"What I enjoy about this school is the playtime and the teachers are very nice and polite. I enjoy the basketball hoops and the table tennis tables in the playground. The food is very and I am enjoying the lessons." **Carlito Elliot Russell 7E**

"I enjoy the drama class because it teaches me about a lot of things that are needed to be tough, for example drama neutral which means stand still" **Marilyn Mensah 7E**

"I have enjoyed meeting new teachers and people this week. I have also enjoyed learning about the different ways the school works. I found the fire safety lesson fascinating because it taught me how to react during a fire drill/real fire. I also like the different options of food the school provides. I have loved making new friends, I am excited to learn new subjects." **Henrique Roque 7W**

"I enjoy this school because it is fun and I have made a lot of new friends. The teachers are amazing because the help

you with your work. This is the best school ever.” La’Keylah Harrison 7W



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