



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

Music Scholarship Pupils

Jada Kwizera, Year 9



Main achievements from this half-term

Jada was awarded a Music Scholarship when she started at Platanos College in September 2020. Since then, Jada has improved significantly as a violinist.

It is clear from staff feedback as well as feedback from Jada's Pastoral Manager that Jada has developed her confidence, her communication skills and her presentation skills.

Jada's independence with music has also developed further and she is excited to be in a position to choose her own music and perform it. As a result, Jada has been learning a greater variety of pieces and has improved her ability to read music.

A key area of focus for Jada this year has been on improving her note-reading and her rhythm. She has also been working on understanding which finger pattern to use. Jada can now recognise all the Grade 1 patterns and is working on Grade 2 scales and keys. As Jada has made excellent progress with this, we have now started working towards Jada sitting her Grade 2 violin exam.



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Next steps

Jada has recently chosen her Grade 2 ABRSM violin pieces and has started work on them as well as her Grade 2 scales. Jada is aiming to sit her Grade 2 exam next academic year.

Jada intends to join the school orchestra and to use this as a springboard to joining a larger orchestra in the future. Over the summer, Jada intends to practice some music of her choice in order to continue to develop her musical repertoire.

Comment from Music teacher

Jada is working well in class and I am looking forward to seeing her role within the school orchestra develop further. It has been a pleasure to tutor Jada over the years and I am in awe of the process that she has made to date. She has become much more independent with her choice of music. I look forward to continuing to support her to develop her talents.

Comment from pupil

I really want to play in an orchestra with lots of different schools. I did that once in primary school and it was great. I am looking forward to supporting the Key Stage 3 orchestra next year. I really enjoy learning the violin and like that this is something that I have that is special to me. Furthermore, my mother and grandmother are really proud of me and this has made me very happy!



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Giovanni Edwards, Year 8



Main achievements

When Giovanni started at Platanos College in September 2021, he did not realise that he had a talent for singing. However, in his Music lessons this talent soon became apparent. As a result, Giovanni received additional support with his singing and was chosen to sing at the Queen's Jubilee in June 2022. He performed on stage with Jason Donovan at this event. He was also asked to perform at the King's Coronation earlier this year. As part of our partnership with MISST, Giovanni has also had the opportunity to perform with a range of pupils from different schools. He has also been invited to be part of the MISST Choir with a range of pupils from different schools across London.

Giovanni was nominated for a singing scholarship with Platanos College at the beginning of this academic year. This scholarship has given him the opportunity to have a weekly one-to-one session with a qualified singing teacher. He is also learning the flute and has been selected to attend the Music in Secondary Schools Trust music residential in July 2023.



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Over the course of this term, Giovanni has worked well and gained more projection and range in his singing voice. He has spent some time developing his theory and listening skills and has made some notable improvements in both his sight singing and in particular the repetition of a melodic phrase.

Since starting the Singing Scholarship, Giovanni has become much more confident in his own abilities. Whilst he was initially shy and did not want to share his musical achievements with his friends, he has come to be proud of these achievements and is more willing to share this with his peers. This has had a very positive impact upon some of his peers who are extremely excited and motivated to develop their own musical talents.

Next steps

Going forward we will be looking to continue his listening skills, expand his repertoire and continue to improve his understanding of the anatomy of the singing voice. All of this is with the intention of taking a performance examination in the new academic year.

We are extremely proud of Giovanni's musical achievements this year and look forward to seeing him grow and develop his music skills further.

Feedback from Giovanni's Pastoral Manager and teachers has been extremely positive. They report that Giovanni has become much more confident in communicating in class and is displaying some excellent leadership skills.



Queen's Jubilee performance, June 2022



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Comment from Music teacher

It has been a pleasure teaching Giovanni this last year. His musicality has developed significantly and I look forward to supporting him on this exciting journey to develop his talents even further.

Comment from pupil

I have really enjoyed my singing lessons and the opportunities that singing has given me. Before I started in Platanos College, I did not know that I was good at singing. I love singing and my family are very proud of me for this. It has helped me to develop my confidence and I am getting more confident singing in front of crowds. One of my highlights so far has been singing for the Queen at Buckingham Palace!



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Music Scholarship Pupils

Jadine Kwizera, Year 9



Main achievements from this half-term

Jadine was awarded a Music scholarship when she started at Platanos College in September 2020. Since then, Jadine has improved significantly as a violinist. Her sight-reading and her understanding of rhythm have improved significantly. She has also made significant progress with keeping her fingers rounded on the fingerboard so that she can do more complex and faster string crossings. Jadine has also been working on recognising the key and understanding which finger pattern to use.

As Jadine has made excellent progress with this, we have now started working towards Jadine sitting her Grade 3 Violin Exam.

Over the course of the academic year, Jadine has continued to develop her independence in terms of her choice of music. Recent violin versions of popular songs have encouraged Jadine to explore and further develop her musical repertoire.



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Next steps

Jadine has recently chosen her Grade 3 pieces and is currently studying these pieces. She is also learning her Grade 3 ABRSM scales and continuing to work on studies chosen to support her note reading skills.

Jadine is also planning on becoming a member of the school orchestra and will take on a leadership role in the orchestra to support younger less experienced members of the orchestra to develop their skills.

Comment from Music teacher

Jadine is a conscientious student and works well in class. It has been excellent to watch Jadine grown and develop as a musician. She has become more confident in have conversations about music and is choosing the music that she wants to play. Jadine practices at home and this is apparent in her performances in school.

We are extremely proud of Jadine and look forward to her developing even further as a musician!

Comment from pupil

I want to get to Grade 5 in the violin as it is something that I want to pursue in the future. I want to go to University one day and would like to be able to discuss my accomplishments on the violin in my UCAS application form. I enjoy the violin and if I can, I'd like to also try the flute. It has helped me develop my confidence with performing which is something that I am very happy about. I'm really excited to keep on improving my skills with the violin!