



# **PLATANOS COLLEGE SIXTH FORM**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**January 2025**

### **Welcome Back, Sixth Formers**

Happy New Year and welcome to the start of an exciting new term. We hope you enjoyed a well-deserved festive break and are recharged and motivated. As we step into this new year, it is a great opportunity to refocus on your goals and aspirations through giving your best effort in your academic studies. Congratulations to all students who have recently completed your BTEC exams!

The majority of you will soon be sitting the very first A-level exams, a historic moment for Platanos College Sixth Form. We are incredibly proud of your hard work and dedication, as well as the support and effort of your teachers in making this milestone possible.

We encourage you to continue striving for excellence and putting in your best efforts to achieve success in these exams. Your hard work and commitment will lay a foundation for the next steps of your academic studies and career path. Let's make 2025 a successful one! *Attitude Determines Altitude.*

### **Highlights from last term**

**Last term saw many exciting achievements, from excellent exam preparation, UCAS applications to inspiring participation in events and activities. It was a term that highlighted the hard work and talent of our sixth formers.**

### **Dunraven Secondary School Year 11 assembly**



*'Feel the fear and do it anyway!' Susan Jeffers*

"Fear, that's how I initially felt with the thought of speaking at a Dunraven secondary school assembly, however it was the opposite feeling when I stood on the stage. I felt confident and proud of myself and the other Sixth Form Ambassadors that shared their experiences. Eduardo, Wealth and Samuel gave their very all in delivering the information to the year 11 students.

Leading the assembly was an experience that will never be forgotten, and it has built me into someone new. I feel I can conquer any task granted to me and has also made me realise that being fearful of something should not stop you from doing it. I felt like I had stepped out of my bubble and became the best version of myself" *Regina – Year 12*



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### Motivational extracts from our Sixth Form Ambassadors



“I learned time management, adaptability, discipline, and that one can achieve everything they want if they put their mind to it, which implies putting in enough work and effort. Sixth Form is about exploring the opportunities around you”. **Samuel - Year 13**

“When I first came to Platanos College Sixth Form, I was nervous because I didn’t know what to expect, mostly because it was my first time in the school, and I was new to the country too. I had to adapt and that seemed like so much work for me, and I kept wondering how I was going to do all of that. But surprisingly, the students, teachers, and heads of sixth form were polite, kind and very welcoming, so I passed that phase easily”. **Wealth- Year 12**

“I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for Platanos College Sixth Form. What sets this school apart is, the great connection between the teachers and students. The dedication and care that teachers show towards both sixth form and lower school really helps to create a bond between everyone. It’s clear that they genuinely care about our success, not just academically, but also personally”. **Eduardo – Year 12**



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### Our Sixth Form Basketball Team

#### ***A Promising Debut Season***

The Sixth Form basketball team has made remarkable strides in their inaugural season, showcasing incredible growth in teamwork, skill development, and competitive performance. So far, the team has competed in four games; two in each age group (U17s and U19s) achieving an impressive 50%-win record in both categories.



#### ***The Coach Highlights Our Key Players***

**Modelie Mbengo** – *Captain Fantastic, the engine of the team, consistently driving performance and inspiring his teammates.*

**Zion Osei** – *The glue guy who keeps the team calm, composed, and unified under pressure.*

**Archibald Ofofu** – *The team's best hustler and high-energy player, always eager to defend the opposition's top ball handler.*

**Orhue Austin** – *The leading rebounder, dominating the boards with an average of 12 rebounds per game.*

#### **Leadership and Camaraderie**

The team has demonstrated exceptional leadership and on-court communication, supporting one another through every challenge.

#### **Improved Fitness Levels**

Longer games and shorter rotations have pushed players to new physical heights, with noticeable improvements in endurance and overall fitness.

#### **Areas for Improvement**

Fundamental Skills: Refining ball handling, passing, footwork, and finishing will remain key priorities in upcoming practices.

#### **Practice Outside of School**

Increasing opportunities for team practices beyond school remains a challenge that we aim to address in the future.

The Sixth Form Basketball Team is building a strong foundation for future success, and we are incredibly proud of their progress so far. Keep up the hard work!



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### Enrichment Programme

This year will have many more opportunities to build on your successes, engage in new projects, and work towards achieving your aspirations.

We've planned a variety of workshops, events, and initiatives designed to help you excel, explore new interests, and prepare for your next steps.

Here are a few to mention.

- Lambeth Together HealthStart Medicine Programme - supporting your student who wish to pursue a career in healthcare.
- RSE Workshops
- Sparking Futures Employability Programme
- The Weil Employability Boot Camp – Law Firm
- Business Enterprise Workshops
- Career Coaching

### Work Experience - step out of the classroom and into the world of work!

Year 12 students will be encouraged to embrace Work Experience in the summer term. Work Experience helps you understand workplace culture, improve interpersonal skills, discover talents and develop on areas for growth. Whether it opens your eyes to new possibilities or confirms aspirations, the experience will be invaluable in shaping your future.

One inspiring example is Alarba, who recently completed her Work Experience at King's College Hospital. Here's what Alarba had to say:



*"Last year I completed my work experience placement within the radiography department of Kings College Hospital, from CT and MRI to In-Patient theatre. The week had been very insightful as I have been able to see the practical and technical sides to this career and how radiographers work alongside a multitude of medical professions to ensure patients receive correct care. My favourite parts of this work experience placement would be observing within the interventional radiology. Within this department medical imaging is used alongside with invasive procedures for treating various medical condition. Here I observed an embolisation operation of a patient that had tumours within their lung. I was able to see how Radiographers work alongside other medical professions such as surgeons and physicians to map out a route in which the catheter will shrink and restrict blood supply to the tumour, making it unable to grow and easier to remove without damaging extra lung tissue.*

*Ultimately, this work experience placement has definitely solidified my choice of going into the Diagnostic radiography field"*

Alarba's story is a testament to the positive transformational impact. Get ready to explore your passions by thinking about what experience you would like to gain in the world of work.

*Here are some Work Experience links to get you started!*





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## King's College Work Experience

<https://www.kch.nhs.uk/careers/working-at-kings/work-experience/>

## Speakers for Schools

<https://www.speakersforschools.org/work-experience-opportunities/>

## Spring Pod Work Experience

<https://www.springpod.com/virtual-work-experience>



On a final note, we would like to extend our congratulations to one of our inspirational Year 13 students, Samuel Ahibo, for earning an interview at Oxford University, a remarkable achievement in itself. Although the outcome was not as hoped, this student's dedication, resilience, and sheer commitment to their goals serve as a shining example to us all.

Achievement is not defined by a single result; it is by the effort, growth, and determination. Onwards and upwards! This is only the beginning.

Continue striving towards your aspirations, we look forward to celebrating the incredible opportunities and successes.

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