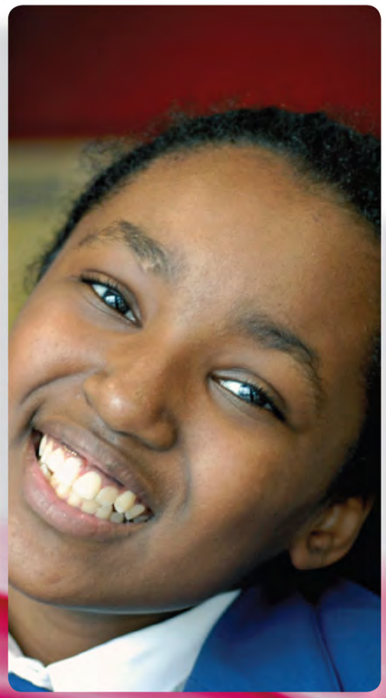
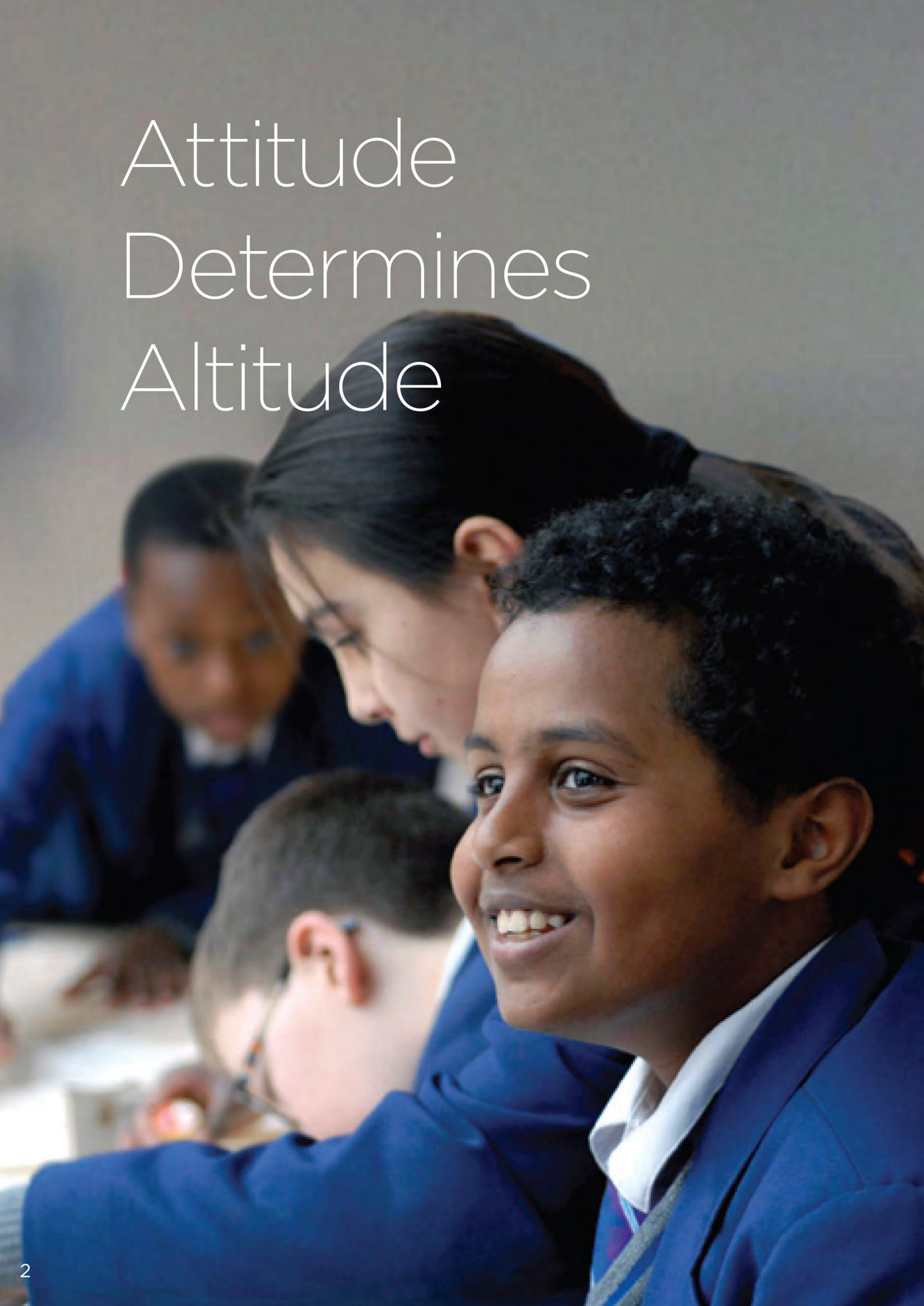
PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for pupils of all abilities

PROSPECTUS 2027/2028



Attitude Determines Altitude



The heart of the matter

Our school is an inclusive school with inclusivity at the heart of our equality plans.

Platanos College is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and good relations between all members of our school community.

Our school is an inclusive school with inclusivity at the heart of our equality plans. We recognise that some pupils and their families struggle more than others against disadvantage and discrimination. The pursuit of equal opportunities is at the heart of our determination to provide an excellent service for all our pupils, working to make a positive contribution to the outcomes of all. We are equally committed to ensuring equality for everyone who works for us.

We have an unshakeable belief that we can make a difference. We are changing lives.

Platanos College provides an excellent learning environment for all pupils and staff. We have high expectations of everyone in our community.

We prepare pupils and learners to take advantage of learning opportunities throughout their lives and to rise to the demands of academic rigour, high standards of scholarship, further and higher education, as well as opportunities in creative careers, the service industry and business, accountancy and finance. We have an unshakeable belief that we can make a difference. We are changing lives.

We believe that every learner can succeed and we challenge and support them to reach their full potential. We offer all learners a rounded education to meet the challenges of an ever-changing society.

We raise the aspiration of learners to ensure that they achieve beyond their expectations and play a valuable role in the world.

We celebrate success and encourage pupils and learners to take part in and enjoy learning and life by stretching the abilities of all.

We are proud of the cultural diversity in our school and encourage tolerance and respect for each individual. We link our school to other cultures and communities throughout the world.

Hello and Welcome!

Platanos College is an ambitious and vibrant school with high expectations.

We are very proud to introduce you to our prospectus. Platanos College is an ambitious and vibrant school with high expectations. The school is building on its successes year on year, term on term and day on day. We hope this prospectus will give you a real sense of our amazing school as well as all the information you need.

Platanos College pupils are expected to demonstrate enterprise capability through decision-making, leadership, managing risk and problem-solving. Ample opportunities exist for pupils to develop these skills both within the timetabled curriculum and beyond, through our extensive extra-curricular programmes. Visitors often comment on the school's calm, purposeful and well-ordered atmosphere.

We have an outstanding new building with excellent, state-of-the-art facilities. We are a member of the SSAT Leading Edge national network of high-performing schools. In recent years, we have also established our new Scholarships, which is a programme for our most able pupils. Read more about this exciting initiative in this prospectus.

Ms Williams and Ms Henry
Heads of School

Welcome from the Trustees

As governors we are very proud of this school's achievements and we look forward to meeting with parents new and old.

Welcome to Platanos College's prospectus. The last year has been filled with news and achievements for our staff and pupils and we join with our school leaders in believing that the year ahead will bring a host of new and exciting opportunities for everyone at the school.

Following a successful decade of raising aspirations and achievement at Platanos College, we converted to Academy status to take advantage of the new freedoms in order to cater for our pupils. We have been recognised nationally for our pupils' achievements in the last few years.

We firmly believe that we will continue to transform the lives of all in our community within the framework of an Academy Trust.
This allows our schools within the Trust to work together collaboratively in order to share best practice. Sometimes this includes functions of the governing bodies, staff, resources, training and commissioning of services.

Platanos College now occupies a first-rate building and has excellent facilities for all of our pupils and staff. As governors/trustees, we are very proud of this school's achievements and we look forward to meeting with parents new and old throughout the year.

Mr Akin Alabi
Chair/Member of the Platanos Trust

Enterprise culture

Our specialisms of Business and Enterprise permeate through all aspects of school life.

Platanos College is a Business and Enterprise College. This means that aspects of the curriculum have a business and enterprise focus. Indeed our specialisms permeate through all aspects of school life. Our pupils are expected to demonstrate enterprise capability through decision-making, leadership, managing risk and problem-solving. Pupils can extend these skills through our extra-curricular programmes.

The Wonder Years

Encouraging creativity and exploration

We believe that all our pupils should take part in a wide range of activities which complement the curriculum. We provide a wide range of activities which are designed to stimulate and offer a different perspective.

Pupils can take part in a variety of competitions. School teams, for instance, challenge other schools in football, cricket, rugby, basketball, netball, volleyball, swimming, badminton, chess and debating.

Art pupils are encouraged to display and market their work on the online gallery and through periodic sales of jewellery.

All pupils are encouraged to apply for membership to one of our many Centres of Excellence which extend the curriculum and develop skills beyond the classroom.

The Centre of Excellence for Sports offers specialist coaching for a range of sports, not normally available, through scholarships for those showing talent and commitment.

Our Centres of Excellence for Science and Maths provide opportunities for independent learning, advanced research work, educational trips and seminars.

The Centre of Excellence for Creative Writing helps pupils to focus on poetry, learn about the media and develop their journalistic skills.

In addition, our Centre of Excellence for Drama provides scholarships, theatre visits and workshops, as well as opportunities for public performances, whilst our Centre of Excellence for Modern Foreign Languages will also open opportunities for trips and master classes to develop advanced language skills in pupils.

Pupils develop leadership skills through participation in the School Council, the Restorative Justice and Peer Mediation programmes, the Jack Petchey Award Scheme and through being Prefects, Presidents and Vice Presidents, Head Boys and Head Girls, and taking part in leadership focus groups.

All pupils are encouraged to apply for membership to one of our many Centres of Excellence which extend the curriculum and develop skills beyond the classroom.

Happy and well-supported pupils

Each House identity signifies the learning journey that all our pupils embark on when they join the school, as well as the diversity of our school community.

On arrival, each pupil is allocated to one of the school's four Houses; the identity of their House is reflected in small details of their uniform. Houses provide an additional, inter-generational grouping for pupils to meet each other at assemblies and through House activities. The House staff get to know pupils well and provide a source of stability as pupils progress through the school. Houses create a family dimension to school life as well as introducing an element of fun and competition.

The Houses at Platanos College are named after four of the great rivers of the world:

- Amazon
- Nile
- Indus
- Tagus

Each House identity signifies the learning journey that all our pupils embark on when they join the school, as well as the diversity of our school community.

All pupils take part in House activities including committees, assemblies, competitions, Sports Day, Spelling Bee, Business Fayre, educational trips, amongst others.

Learning to love learning

To enrol your child at Platanos College is to expect them to be stretched, challenged and supported throughout their school career with us.

We expect the very best from each of our pupils. Enrolling your child at Platanos College is to expect them to be stretched, challenged and supported throughout their school career with us. We place great emphasis on our pupils achieving their best through provision of a broad curriculum, combined with a completely individual approach. Pupils are encouraged and challenged to build on their achievements and work on their weaknesses. We encourage the professional development of our staff, ensuring that Platanos College is a national leader in educational methods. We aim to get the best from every child by assessing their potential and consistently tracking their progress. A team of personalised Learning Directors track each pupil's progress, ensuring that targets are challenging and ambitious, as well as being realistic and achievable.

A learning curve

Key Stage 3

We have an extensive programme of accelerated learning and many children complete Key Stage 3 by the end of Year 8.

At KS3 pupils follow the national curriculum with a particular emphasis on the development of competences through an arts-based, skills-based programme, as well as an academic pathway. E-learning, six-weekly assessments and careful target-setting are used to support personalised learning and many opportunities are provided for pupils to develop their business and enterprise skills in real projects and to share their findings with others.

More able pupils are also supported and selected to join our other academic clubs. Our most able, gifted and talented pupils are identified across the curriculum and are kept on target through regular monitoring of progress. More information about most able, gifted and talented can be found opposite. We have an extensive programme of accelerated learning, and some children complete Key Stage 3 early. This can free up time for pupils to study additional courses, take extra qualifications and pursue additional interests.

We offer the following subjects at KS3:
English, Mathematics, Science, ICT, Spanish, RE, PSHE, Humanities, PE, Art and Graphics, Design Technology, Food Technology and Music, amongst other subjects.

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 the curriculum is rich and diverse with many different pathways.

At KS4 the curriculum is rich and diverse with many different pathways designed to meet individual pupil's needs. Pupils can take the English Baccalaureate subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, a language and Humanities. A wide range of other courses are also available, including a variety of vocational courses. Work-related learning and the spirit of enterprise also permeates the curriculum at Key Stage 4 and there are extensive opportunities for work experience. Pupils' progress is closely tracked through our programme of six-weekly assessments. We expect pupils to develop as independent learners under the guidance and support of their teachers.

We offer the following subjects at KS4:
English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Further Maths, Statistics, Science, ICT/ Computing, Business Studies, Humanities, RE, PE, Spanish, Community Languages, Media Studies, Art, Graphics, Music, Design Technology, Food Technology, Citizenship, and vocational qualifications, amongst other subjects.

Every child is unique

Most able, gifted and talented

Throughout their time at the school, pupils are challenged and stretched to ensure they continue to be stimulated and excited by their learning opportunities.

Throughout their time at the school, all pupils are challenged and stretched to ensure they continue to be stimulated and excited by their learning opportunities. However, the school's innovative Grammar School Pathway will provide extra stimulation and challenge to our most able pupils, combined with continuous rigorous testing to ensure all pupils on the pathway are exceeding expectations and exploring new possibilities.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

The key values and beliefs which underpin Platanos College's SEND Policy are:

- Equal value and respect for all.
- Equal opportunity for all.
- Recognition of individual differences with special regard for children with special educational needs.
- Development through the provision of appropriate learning opportunities.
- A constant search for improvement in the quality of teaching and learning.
- Commitment to the spirit and statutory requirements of legislation, including partnership between pupils, parents/carers and other professionals.

The key values and beliefs which underpin Platanos College's SEND Policy include equal value and respect for all and equal opportunity for all.

More information and a full copy of our SEND Policy can be obtained from the school website.

Centre of Excellence and Flagship School

We are also proud that Platanos College is an IQM (Inclusion Quality Mark) Centre of Excellence and Flagship School.

Grammar School Pathway

We believe that the introduction of the Grammar School Pathway plays a key role in preparing our pupils for the challenges of life in the 21st Century.

At Platanos College we ensure high quality provision for all pupils, whatever their abilities, talents and skills.

Many of our pupils achieve high academic success and, as a school, we take great pride in producing well-rounded, cultured individuals with highly developed social and leadership skills. The ethos of our school is based on the celebration of excellence in a caring, supportive environment, which encourages pupils to achieve way beyond their expectations and places strong emphasis on self-discipline, good manners and courtesy.

In recent years increasing numbers of our pupils have been applying to the more prestigious universities where they find themselves competing with pupils from grammar and public schools.

Many of these ex-pupils tell us that they would have valued an even more rigorous and demanding regime whilst with us in order to better prepare them for competing with pupils from these backgrounds.

With this in mind we introduced an opportunity for able, gifted and talented pupils to experience an even wider dimension to their education. We aim for a range of pupils to be able to benefit from this educational pathway which we believe will greatly expand pupils' horizons and life opportunities. We called this initiative the Grammar School Pathway as it has incorporated elements traditionally associated with a Grammar School education.

The Grammar School Pathway includes a more traditional range of academic opportunities including English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Music and Art as well as a modern foreign and a classical language.

Pupils also have access to a wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment programmes. Pupils are expected to develop high levels of literacy and numeracy, speak confidently in public and take leadership roles in all aspects of school life.

Pupils are given opportunities to study subjects to greater depths than previously and have access to master classes, lectures and seminars delivered by visiting experts. They complete extended tasks, individualised projects and be subject to regular testing.

Educational visits and trips to enhance learning are embedded into courses of study. There is a strong emphasis on independent learning and research and pupils will have regular mentoring and academic coaching.

We look forward to increasing still further our partnership working with parents, particularly through homework, reading and good use of our online learning platforms, making the most of the school's excellent ICT facilities.

We are proud of our school and its long record of past achievements but our focus is firmly on our current pupils, the challenges facing them and our responsibility to equip them to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world. We believe that our provision plays a key role in preparing our pupils for the challenges of life in the 21st Century.

New and exciting subjects will be included in the curriculum which will open up the world of knowledge and experiences for Platanos College pupils, who will themselves be equipped to take on the role of 'experts' and contribute valuable creative input to all aspects of their studies.

Scholarships and Bursaries

The purpose of scholarships is to instill an aspirational approach to learning and life, to motivate young people and to raise attainment and achievement.

At Platanos College, scholarships are awards based on academic achievement or other merit.

Their purpose is to instill an aspirational approach to learning and life, to motivate young people and to raise attainment and achievement.

Both existing and prospective pupils are eligible to apply for scholarships and bursaries.

Awards will be made for each year group annually.

Applications are made when pupils can demonstrate readiness. As well as submitting a written application form, pupils will be expected to make a presentation to the Scholarship Foundation.

Selection criteria

- Entrepreneurship, either group or individual .
- Careers mapped out with sponsorship to extend learning beyond the classroom.
- Achievement in a particular subject or field of study: **English, Mathematics, Science, Drama, Art, Music, PE, Sports, Community Contribution and Business and Enterprise**.

Pupils have to submit an application to the College's Scholarship Foundation for scholarships and bursaries. Pupils who have been awarded a scholarship have to report regularly to the Scholarship Foundation and demonstrate that they are upholding the College's rules and values.

School uniform

All pupils must wear the full school uniform throughout the school day. Our pupils are our ambassadors and wearing the school uniform is an important way for them to show pride in their school. We ask our parents and carers to support us in enforcing our uniform policy. We strongly advise parents to label their children's clothing clearly.

In our experience, iron-on labels are the most satisfactory.

Where specific items may need to be purchased from the school office or its supplier, these items are marked with an asterisk (*).

Boys

- Black/dark grey trousers
- White shirt
- School tie*
- School jumper*
- Blue school blazer*
- Black shoes
- Black/grey socks

Girls

- Black/dark grey trousers
- White blouse
- School tie*
- School jumper*
- Blue school blazer*
- Black shoes
- Black/grey socks

The school day

The school day is divided into separate periods in which pupils will study different timetabled subjects. The school day starts at 8.40 am each day. Pupils are required to be in school by 8.30 am.

Pupils are not allowed to leave the grounds during the school day. All pupils receive their personalised timetable at the beginning of each academic year so that their learning throughout the week is clear and well structured.

Homework

We believe in the value of homework. All pupils are expected to study at home because good habits and self-discipline will boost their skills and achievements as independent learners.

A homework schedule will be issued to all staff and pupils at the start of the academic year. We ask parents and carers to record their child's homework in their homework diary and we advise that pupils are supported in completing their homework by providing a quiet area for them to study at home and at a regular time.

Homework is an important part of school life and is important for a number of reasons:

- It allows pupils to assess, reflect upon and consolidate work that has taken place in the context of a lesson.
- It encourages independent, unsupported learning.
- It allows pupils to pursue their own interests and develop their abilities.
- It enables preparation of a range of activities which can be followed up in subsequent lessons.
- It provides a vehicle for teacher-pupil-parent interaction.

Pupils are responsible for:

1 Completing all tasks, including homework, to the best of their ability.

2 Handing in their work, completed and on time.

3 Bringing diaries to each lesson and to record the homework set each day.

4 Getting their diaries signed each week by a parent/carer.

5 Asking their teachers for help when required.

Parents' and carers' responsibilities:

1 To discuss, encourage and review the child's work and progress on a regular basis.

2 To enable their child to have the space and time to study effectively.

3 To encourage their child to make full use of all available resources (such as the school library) to support their learning.

4 To oversee the completion of homework.

5 To contact subject teachers/ tutors about any concerns regarding homework.

Safeguarding pupils

Platanos College is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so that they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm.

This is the responsibility of every adult linked to Platanos College. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

Platanos College has a rigorous safeguarding system in place to protect the welfare of its pupils. Our approachable Pastoral Managers and Designated Senior Leads are always on hand to address any concerns.

There are various committees run by staff and pupils to safeguard the welfare of all young people. These include the Anti-Bullying Committee and the E-Safety Committee. The school also has a dedicated anti-bullying email system and telephone line, which means that issues can be resolved swiftly and in confidence.

Admissions

'Attitude Determines Altitude.'

Platanos College is a comprehensive school for pupils aged between 11 and 16 (with a separate 16-19 Sixth Form). The admissions criteria have been designed to produce an intake that is representative of the national ability range.

Pupils are admitted according to a banding system. Five ability bands (encompassing high and low ability) will be determined by the results of Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT scores) and the school will admit approximately equal numbers of applicants into each band.

Scholarships for applicants

A maximum of up to 10% of our admission number will be designated for applicants who show aptitude and interest in Art and Music. A separate application must be made during the admissions process. Scholarships in other subjects will be made available to pupils once they have accepted a place at the school.

The school participates in the Local Authority co-ordinated admissions procedure and all deadlines within that should be adhered to by applicants.

Admissions to Platanos College is determined as according to the Admissions Code. For further details, please contact the school or visit our website at www.platanoscollege.com.

Contact us

Platanos College
Clapham Road
London
SW9 0AL

Phone: 020 7733 6156
Email: info@platanoscollege.com
Online: www.platanoscollege.com

Governor/Trustee contact

If you need to contact the Chair of Trustees, the details are:

Chair of Trustees
c/o Platanos College
Clapham Road
London
SW9 0AL

Email: chairofgovernors@platanoscollege.com

Designed and produced by www.communitas-pr.co.uk
Photography by Howard Davies and Hazel Thompson