



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

Key Stage 4 Newsletter

Monday 12th November 2018

Attitude Determines Altitude

Key Dates / Events Calendar

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| Wednesday 7 th November 2018 | Year 11 Parents' Evening (4.30pm - 7pm) |
| Wednesday 7 th November 2018 | Careers Fair (4pm - 6pm) |
| Wednesday 12 th December 2018 | Year 10 Parents' Evening (5pm - 7pm) |
| Friday 14 th December 2018 | Year 11 Interventions |
| Friday 14 th December 2018 | Academic Review Day (Key Stage 3) |

Welcome

Welcome to our latest newsletter for this autumn term 2018.

It has been a successful start to the year and the first autumn term has flown by for staff and pupils alike, as we get back to the business of learning.

We were delighted with last year's GCSE results and we would like to congratulate all of our 2018 Year 11 graduates for their many successes. They have worked exceptionally hard and thoroughly deserve to celebrate their successes. Last academic year saw the introduction of the far more rigorous and challenging GCSE (9-1) in all curriculum subjects.

In September, we warmly welcomed our new Year 7 pupils to the school community. The pupils were greeted by Mr Bourke and Ms Williams with their first year group assembly, during which the pupils were taught what it

means to be a pupil at Platanos College in line with the school motto 'Attitude Determines Altitude'. Our senior pupils will be role models for our younger pupils.

All pupils looked outstanding in their uniform and spent the first week learning about our values and expectations as well as getting to know staff and other pupils.

Meet our new Head Boys and Head Girls



Head Boy & Head Girl Team 2018-2019

After a very challenging and thorough selection process, we are delighted to appoint **Chung-Ping Xu** and **Zied Talaboulma** as this year's Head Boys, and **Precious N'Gbale** and **Fiazana Rahman** as Head Girls.

This year, it was a very difficult decision to appoint both roles, as all candidates who took part were outstanding in every part of the selection process.

All candidates completed and submitted an application form and delivered a captivating speech in front of their year group, before finally being shortlisted for a formal interview with the Senior Leadership Team.

The position of Head Boy and Girl is one of the top honours that can be bestowed upon a pupil at Platanos College and requires the pupils to be passionate about improving the school community and, equally, play an integral role in representing the school at all local and major events.

As ambassadors for the school, they are expected to be outstanding role models within our school community. They are also expected to listen to, represent and coordinate pupil voice for a wide range of school issues from extra-curricular to organising the Year 11 Prom.

We would like to congratulate the pupils who were successful in their application. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and wish them every success in their new roles.

The Prefect and Trainee Leaders Team

The following pupils were successful in their application for Prefects and Year 10 Trainee Leaders.

Prefects 2018-2019

Jean-Paul Rueda (Senior Prefect)
Ron Krasniqi (Senior Prefect)
Nzube Uzoukwu (Senior Prefect)

Benedite Ngiena (Senior Prefect)
Mubarak Mina
Joanna Byrne
Iklas Merabti
Janile Clottey
Oluwatobi Ayeni
Leyton Green
Fiyinfoluwa Olasupo
Michael Curtis
Ariful Chowdhury
Esteban Contreras Lara
Roshawn Graham
Tyrese Obika
Kiara Goncalves-Pieniawska
Jeshurun Smith-Jaldao
Aaliyah Xavier
Aisha Azeez
Ana Gouveia
Ummi Kitandula
Aaliyah Xavier
Monalisa Da Silva



Prefect Team 2018 - 2019

Year 10 Trainee Leaders

Robert Karapetian
Zahra Haji Ali
Amina Hoque
Mara Costa
Tania Monteiro
Brayn Yildirici
Necat Gullu
Suweyda Ahmed
Mikhi Fearon
Shane Hopkins

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Year 10 Trainee Leaders

Platanos College Prefects and Trainee Leaders are trusted, loyal members of our school community. They undertake various roles and responsibilities around the school and at a variety of school functions during the academic year. They are expected to establish and maintain the highest standards of behaviour, attitude and appearance at all times and be positive role models for other pupils.

Congratulations to all pupils who were successful in their application and we look forward to working with them throughout the year.

Year 10 Work Experience

The work experience programme is an integral part of the Year 10 curriculum and provides an opportunity for our pupils to gain an invaluable insight into the 'world of work'. This helps all pupils to prepare for the responsibilities and opportunities of adult life. In addition, it also enhances employability skills and allows our pupils to acquire a better understanding of the labour market.

Although we have a small selection of work experience placements we can offer, our pupils are encouraged and invited to find their

own placement with assistance from their parents/carers. To assist with the process, we intend on offering an online help guide via our website in the spring term.

All placements are required to complete a work experience placement form which must be returned to the main office. Work experience will commence on the 9th July 2019 to 23rd July 2019.

Please be aware that some types of work experience placements are extremely difficult to secure due to confidentiality issues, workplace age restrictions or risk or work type. These may include placements in fields such as: Medicine, Law, Finance, Media and Performing Arts. Year 10 pupils targeting careers in these fields should select placements linked to these areas rather than directly within them.

It is also worth noting that there is a lot of local competition for work experience placements, as many of the local schools have the same work experience period. Therefore, applying as soon as possible gives your child the best chance of getting the placement they most desire.

Lastly, the application to secure a placement may also vary. Some employers like a formal application email with a CV attached or a written application, others may prefer a telephone call or a drop-in visit (especially customer focused areas such as Catering, Retail, Hair and Beauty, whereby the employer wants to assess the applicant's personal attributes).

Whilst many well-known large businesses operate their own work experience programmes, pupils are encouraged to send out speculative letters and emails to businesses they wish to approach. This will demonstrate initiative and self-motivation; two qualities which employers greatly value.

We hope that you will support the school in helping your son/daughter with this process.

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Careers Advice

Platanos College along with 16 other Lambeth schools is part of the 'Quality in Careers Standard'. The Quality in Careers Standard is the national quality award for careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) in schools, colleges and work-based learning.

The 'Quality in Careers Standard' is about improving our pupils' awareness of opportunities, raising their aspirations and working with them to ensure they achieve their full potential.

As part of our ongoing commitment to provide impartial, independent careers education, information, advice and guidance to all of our pupils, our Year 11 pupils are currently attending a one-to-one careers interview, which is delivered by Ms Ogun, our school's Careers Advisor. Interviews are carried out throughout the school day. If parents/carers wish to accompany their child, a meeting can be arranged to meet with Ms Ogun, out of school hours. Please contact Mr Edwards (Keystage 4 Pastoral Manager).

Please check on the school's website to access further careers information. Select the 'Teaching & Learning' drop down menu, and then 'Investor in Careers'.

BT Skills for Work Boot Camp

On Friday 12th October 2018, a cohort of 34 Year 10 pupils was given the opportunity to visit the British Telecom main office in St. Pauls, to take part in their 'Skills for Work Boot Camp'.

Led by BT's in-house training team and supported and mentored by a variety of BT volunteers from different roles, pupils had the opportunity to gain invaluable knowledge and experience from current professionals.

The aim of the visit was to provide pupils with a better understanding of the current labour

market, by challenging conventional thinking and raise aspirations, and take home practical skills to apply to their career path.

They focused on how to improve their employability skills and to consider their first steps into the world of work. Pupils thought about how to choose a career path and where to get advice to inform their decision making. They investigated what values, interests and skills they have and created a profile to help sell themselves in the world of work. They looked at how online profiles and social media sites can affect their career opportunities with perspective employers, and how to present themselves in a CV. They also discussed how to prepare for an interview (looking at body language, dress code and the do's and don'ts), including confidence building techniques.

In the final activity the pupils worked together to create and deliver presentations for a new product of their design.

The facilitators feedback that they were very impressed with the confidence of our pupils and overall, the experience of the BT 'Skills for Work Boot Camp' was a valuable experience for all the pupils who attended, who were really engaged in the process. Equally, we would like to thank the staff from BT who gave up their time to work with our pupils.



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Year 10 input for Research Project

On the 18th September, a group of Year 10 boys participated in a research project conducted by Anthropology and Sociology Scholar, Dr William Henry (Associate Professor, Criminology and Sociology, University of West London). The pupils engaged in some thought-provoking questions and debate about some of the complex social issues in their local community.

Dr Henry was extremely proud of our pupils, who conducted themselves with great maturity and offered some insightful and stimulating feedback. Equally, our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the session. Dr Henry and the school would like to thank the following pupils for their exceptional input.

Jaelan Inglis
Jaden Evelyn
Mikhi Fearon
Samuel Vernon
David Edwards
Jayden Taylor
Omar Karera
Anthony Stewart
Nakai Brown
Sherome Boyden
Shakan Roberts-Ennis
Dante Edwards
Medi Junior Mboglen

Attendance and Punctuality

At Platanos College, we continue to feel strongly about the importance of maintaining excellent attendance and punctuality to ensure outstanding results.

May we take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers that there is an expectation that your child should be in school every day apart from serious illness. Even 95% attendance equates to a child missing half a day of school every two weeks, which in Key Stage 4 is a significant amount of learning time lost. Therefore every Key Stage

4 pupil should aim for 100% attendance, as this will ensure we maximise all learning opportunities, especially bearing in mind the difficulties and challenges of the new GCSE 9-1 system.

Whilst we accept that there are times when absence from school cannot be avoided, these occasions must be kept to a bare minimum. We will not authorise holidays during term time and where attendance drops below an acceptable threshold, parents and carers will be issued a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) and may be asked to attend court to explain their child's absences as dictated by regulations that the school has to follow.

We make no apologies for this approach; regular attendance is one of the significant factors in ensuring that children make progress at school and it is our duty to safeguard our pupils' learning.

Lastly, due to an increase in unexplained absences, we now require **medical evidence for all short-term absences**.

The school will no longer sanction illness/absences without medical evidence. Where possible, a doctor's certificate, medical prescription or prescribed medication must be produced at the school office; this will be deemed as acceptable evidence. It is vital that parents/carers continue to contact the school on every day of any absence in line with the school's safeguarding policy.

Please support your child by ensuring that they attend school every day. We sincerely thank you in advance for your support.

Behaviour Expectations

Platanos College would like to congratulate the vast majority of our pupils for continuing to have an excellent attitude towards their learning and continually demonstrating outstanding behaviour. These pupils continue to be fantastic ambassadors for our school

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and all of our staff are very proud of their achievements.

Given the changes in the new GCSEs, we continue to stretch and challenge all pupils. The examinations being significantly harder means that poor behaviour will not enable pupils to meet the demands of the new changes. It is therefore imperative that we reiterate our expectations with regard to behaviour.

We expect all of our pupils to behave in a way that contributes to excellent learning and outstanding lessons. For that reason please continue to support the School's Discipline and Behaviour Policy and remind your child of the school's expectations and the need to demonstrate good behaviour in school and around the local community.

Intervention / Revision Sessions

We were very pleased to see so many Year 11 pupils attending their intervention sessions over the half term break. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff involved and the parents and carers for their ongoing support in encouraging their child to attend.

The aim of these targeted intervention sessions is to enable our pupils to have access to staff for more personalised support, as well as encouraging them to develop their independence in preparing for their exams at the end of Year 11.

The expectation is that all Year 11 pupils must attend all intervention sessions whether that be after school or during the holiday periods leading up to their final exams. We appreciate that the term breaks are important both in terms of families spending time together and pupils having a much-needed and well-deserved break; however, we cannot stress the importance of attending these intervention sessions which are invaluable so please continue to encourage your child to attend.

We thank you in anticipation of your continued support.

Contact Details

Please can we remind you that it is extremely important that we have up to date contact information for all parents and carers.

If there are any changes to address, parental contact telephone numbers or emails, please let us know by informing the main office as soon as possible or email:

info@platanoscollege.com.

Safeguarding Pupils

We continue to ensure that safeguarding the welfare of our pupils is a core priority so that our pupils can learn in a positive and safe environment.

Should parents/carers have any safeguarding or child protection concerns, they can contact our Designated Safeguard Lead by email at:

safeguarding@platanoscollege.com.

Term Dates

TERM 2

Monday 5 November 2018 - Wednesday 19 December 2018

HOLIDAY

Thursday 20 December 2018 - Friday 4 January 2019

TERM 3

Monday 7 January 2019 - Wednesday 13 February 2019

**Key Stage 4 Pastoral Managers
(Mr. Edwards)**

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