



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

Health and Safety Newsletter

March 2019

ATTITUDE DETERMINES ALTITUDE

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

We are pleased to report that we have had a very successful and productive spring term. We maintained our focus of ensuring that pupils in Key Stage 3 are being prepared with the skills and knowledge for Key Stage 4. In turn, structures are now well established in Key Stage 4 to prepare our pupils for the demands of the GCSEs this year.

Our staff and pupils remain committed to the belief that **Attitude Determines Altitude**.

We were also delighted to meet so many parents and carers in our recent parents' evenings. The level of engagement and support from parents and carers has been overwhelmingly positive. We thank you for your continued support and we look forward to meeting many more parents and carers at our forthcoming Academic Review Day.

We would like to take this opportunity to address some of the basic Health and Safety issues and outline our clear expectations of our pupils.

A separate programme for the end of term arrangements will be sent out to parents and carers. Our last day of term is **Wednesday 3rd April 2019**.

All pupils return for the new term on **Tuesday 23rd April at 8.40 am**. We expect all pupils to return on time in full school uniform and ready to learn.

We thank you in advance for your support.

God is with us, especially with our pupils.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Taybi

Acting Head of School

EXPECTATIONS OF PUPILS WHEN WALKING AROUND THE BUILDING

Our pupils move around the building at least four times per day. There are times when areas of the school become congested. Pupils must be patient when moving from one lesson to another.

Behaviour at change-over must be of a high standard. The overwhelming majority of our pupils have been exceptionally well behaved during change-over times and must be congratulated.

- They have been courteous during change-over.
- They have spoken quietly during change-over.
- They walk slowly around the building during change-over.
- They have been punctual to lessons.

A tiny minority of pupils are currently failing to live up to our high expectations. This tiny minority are mainly repeat offenders.

Our expectations are clear; on grounds of safeguarding we have instructed the pupils to do the following:

- To walk around the school building in single file. Any pupil who is seen to be misbehaving in the corridors will be sanctioned with demerits and a same day detention.
- Not to run in the corridor, this is a serious health and safety issue and will be sanctioned with a 5-day fixed term exclusion.
- Not to make excessive noise in the corridor, this is a serious health and safety issue; it disrupts other learners and will be sanctioned with a 5-day fixed term exclusion.

We expect all pupils to behave in a calm manner when manoeuvring around the school building.

END OF SCHOOL DISMISSAL

There are over 1,000 pupils exiting the school building at the end of the day, it is therefore important for health and safety reasons that **pupils do not congregate outside the main reception area.**

Pupils must do the following:

- Exit the building quietly.
- Exit the school building in an orderly manner.
- Pupils who are waiting for their siblings must do so in the main canteen.
- Pupils must go straight home and must not congregate on the pavement outside the school.

Any child who is seen crossing the main road, without crossing at the traffic lights will be sanctioned with a Saturday detention.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES/TRIPS

As part of our safeguarding procedure, no child can take part in after school activities, unless we receive written consent from their parents or carer. We will notify all parents and carers formally through a letter.

If any parent needs to make an enquiry with regards to their child's attendance, the reception will be able to confirm this until 5pm. Our reception staff finish at 5pm, which coincides with the after-school activities taking place.

Please note that most school trips will be planned for the summer term.

WET LUNCH BREAK

In the case of wet weather, we have asked all pupils to locate themselves in specific areas within the school. Signs are located across the school informing pupils of where to go in case of wet weather.

All pupils will be able to eat in the canteen as normal. Pupils are not to roam the corridors to look for their teachers, nor are they to occupy vacant classrooms.

On grounds of safeguarding, all pupils should be in the designated areas which are supervised by staff.

METAL SWEEPERS

In light of recent concerns detailed in the local and national press on knife crime, as a school in the Borough of Lambeth, we feel we must respond by educating our pupils on the dangers and seriousness of violent crime, including the carrying of weapons.

In addition to this, so as to further ensure that our pupils are always safe, we will be conducting random searches with the use of a metal detector in both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

It must be seen as a deterrent for those pupils who feel the pressure to carry a weapon or for those pupils who feel that carrying a weapon may be their only form of self-defence.

Any pupil who chooses to carry a weapon on school site will be reported to the police and sanctioned in line with school policy.

BREAKFAST CLUB

We believe it is important to provide pupils with the option to have an adequate breakfast before their first lesson.

Attending a breakfast club can have a positive impact on pupils' ability to concentrate in lessons. Pupils at the club are provided with books and newspapers to read whilst eating their breakfast. It is also an opportunity for pupils to interact with others from different classes, have topical discussions and develop new friendships. In addition, it can also help improve pupils' punctuality to school.

The breakfast club is open from **7.30 am** to **8.30 am**.

The menu is as follows:

Hot chocolate	Scrambled Eggs	Toast
Croissants	Beans	Sausages
Cereal	Fruits	Bacon



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

Attitude Determines Altitude