



**PLATANOS COLLEGE**

An outstanding school for  
pupils of all abilities

# Key Stage 3 Newsletter

**April 2020**

*Attitude Determines Altitude*

KEY DATES	
<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Monday 6 April 2020 – Friday 17 April 2020</b>
<b>Term 5</b>	<b>Monday 20 April 2020 – Friday 22 May 2020</b>
<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Monday 25 May 2020 – Friday 29 May 2020</b>
<b>Term 6</b>	<b>Monday 1 June 2020 – Tuesday 21 July 2020</b>

## WELCOME

We are living through strange times. However, this time of isolation provides us opportunities to reflect on and self-evaluate our successes in the Spring term.

This newsletter succeeds in capturing some of the successes of our Key Stage 3 pupils since January 2020: from academics to sports, from in the classroom to enrichment. It has been an incredibly rewarding term – one which was cut unusually short.

As you will be aware since the school's forced closure, we have strived to keep in touch with parents, carers and pupils through pupil newsletters, praise newsletters, assembly notices and announcements on the school's website and on Show My Homework. Our teachers have been working tirelessly to provide meaningful and challenging work so that our pupils can continue their education whilst at home. Our Pastoral Managers have been making phone calls and writing emails daily to speak and contact with nearly 800 of our pupils already and will continue to do so until we have contacted them all. We are still here for all of our pupils.

We continue to believe that Attitude Determines Altitude and this drives all that we do.

Congratulations to all our pupils who continue to work from home – we are monitoring Show My Homework usage daily, including who goes online and work that is submitted. Many pupils should be congratulated for continuing to demonstrate our motto. We are proud of you more than ever during these unprecedented times that we find ourselves living through.

Not being in school does present barriers – the online platforms that we are communicating and delivering on help to overcome some of these.

However, the temporary loss of community is something which is very hard to replicate online. Our school community usually evident in the classroom, at lunch time in the canteen and playground, and in the many extra-curricular clubs – these are parts of our community which are temporarily suspended. The uniform which proudly demonstrates our school identity is, for now, packed away. There is no email or online platform that can serve to replace human interaction and the community that we have built at Platanos College.

Additionally, we miss our day to day interaction with our wider community within Stockwell and Lambeth. We have sought to remind our community, and that of the common man, that we are with them still at this time. An example of this is the donation of personal protective equipment (PPE) for some of our front-line workers.

I, on behalf of all the staff at the school, wish you well, safety and good health. We all look forward to seeing you when school reopens.

Please remember that if you need to contact Pastoral Managers you can email them:

[Year7pastoral@platanoscollege.com](mailto:Year7pastoral@platanoscollege.com)

[Year8pastoral@platanoscollege.com](mailto:Year8pastoral@platanoscollege.com)

[Year9pastoral@platanoscollege.com](mailto:Year9pastoral@platanoscollege.com)

Attitude Determines Altitude.



RoyalTrinityHospice  
@trinityhospice

Support from our local community is coming in lots of different ways and it's keeping us smiling.

Thanks to @PlatanosCollege for your generous donation of PPE for our team. ❤️



Mr W. Bourke

## REFLECTIONS ON YEAR 7

I have been astounded by the response of the year 7 cohort since the school's closure; they have shown levels of resilience beyond their years adjusting to significant change in regard to

their daily routine and accessing their school work online.

Pupils have shown remarkable persistence to strive for academic excellence in the midst of uncertainty, often having to overcome technological problems and find solutions to ensure that their learning continues whilst based in their homes.

There are some highlights of my term prior to the school closing that I must share:

My first highlight this term has been watching some outstanding pupil-led assemblies that have served to inform and guide their year 7 peers regarding current affairs affecting both the local and wider community. A particular favourite being 7As International Women's Day assembly, partly due to the engagement and knowledge shared with the year group regarding the impact of in the workplace - but also due to watching individuals speaking publicly for the first time and doing so in such an assured and confident manner.

In terms of CHABOP data the year group has continued to lead the school and year 7 are currently over 100,000 CHABOP points ahead of any other year group, this is a fantastic achievement highlighting the sheer number of positive outcomes being achieved on a daily basis across the year group.

Finally, as this term closes my focus naturally shifts onto the Summer Term, the central aim for the year 7 cohort is always to continue build upon the strong foundations that have been established over the course of the academic year both in regards to academic progress and personal development of each individual.

I invite all pupils to reflect upon their personal journey in secondary education so far this year and consider what they would like to achieve by the end of the academic year in a few short months. I encourage all pupils to stay positive, continuing to display hard work, resilience and determination as we come through this uncertain and unsettling period - safe in the knowledge that the academic gains being made each day from home will prove invaluable in the years to come.

I wish all pupils, parents and carers a well-deserved restful break over Easter. I look forward to continuing our successful working partnership over the Summer term whether that be in school or from home.



Mr G. Hobson



Ms K. Kellman

### REFLECTIONS ON YEAR 8

When the pupils returned in January 2020, it was plain to see that they were excited to see their friends as we welcomed in not just another new year but that of a new decade.

As I have visited year 8 classes on my walks, it has been a pleasure to see the learning taking place and the desire to know more and see pupils stretch themselves. The quest for knowledge is always clear to see with a sea of hands up to answer questions and some can't contain themselves, so they blurt out the answer! With the school's recent closure, I have missed this.

I recently entered an English lesson and heard a pupil read out her work to the class. It was an excellent piece that she could have easily been a reading from a book. I recall entering a PE lesson where a group were trampolining: the pupil jumping at the time was very good which demonstrated their great listening skills following direction from their teacher on how to perform the moves which was carried out so elegantly and almost to perfection.

I have missed my 'little helpers' who are always keen and on hand to offer me support with errands before the day starts or during lunchtimes.

It has been lovely speaking to the pupils and their parents/ carers during these difficult times. Their welfare is paramount and knowing that they are safe and well gives me peace of mind.

### REFLECTIONS ON YEAR 9

Year 9 is a strange enough year to be in - 13-14-year olds, in the middle of the school unsure where they fit in society as they become teenagers. It is a time when choices need to be made on their futures – and I can only imagine the current uncertainty and confusion amongst some of our pupils.

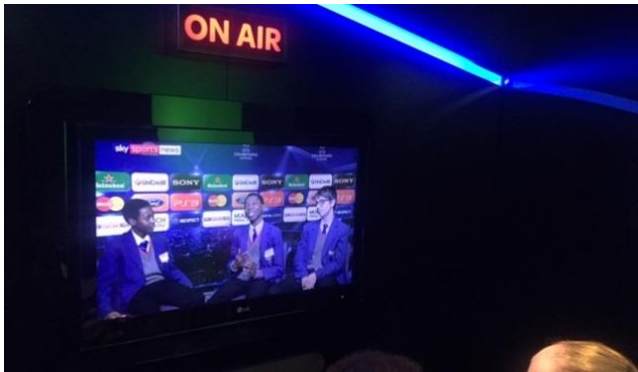
This year 9 cohort has transformed through creative support programmes to help individuals improve their attitude to learning, development of the pupil leadership programme, and pupils involved in projects run by our school partners. These and many more have contributed to the development and positive changes to the year 9 cohort.

Some of my highlights of the term have to be the following:

Twelve pupils involved in IntoUniversity participated in a three-day training leadership workshop. Our pupils were given a number of tasks to complete which included organisation, prioritising and team work. These are all key skills that will support the pupils in preparation for their transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4. The feedback from IntoUniversity staff was extremely positive.

Year 9 pupils have been participating in their option lessons, chosen at the start of the academic year, for example: Computer Science, Art, Graphics, Drama, and PE. The options have been tasters and enable the pupils to try a subject before making their final option selection, details of which will be sent out by Mr Bourke in the next half term.

As we come to the end of the Spring term, I would like to acknowledge and congratulate all of the year 9 pupils who have achieved well thus far.



Mr L. Boyles

### FORMAL EXAMINATIONS

Due to the forced school closure, the final set of formal examinations due to take place week commencing Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020 are on hold. However, we will keep parents/ carers and pupils informed of any changes.

### THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL PATHWAY

The Grammar School Pathway (GSP) is a programme aimed at all pupils who show academic ability and are developing skills as independent learners.

Pupils enrolled into the Grammar School Pathway are expected to achieve very high academic success, as well as being well-rounded, cultured individuals demonstrating a high level of social skills. The philosophy of the GSP is based on the celebration of excellence in a caring, supportive environment which encourages pupils to achieve beyond their own and our expectations.

In line with the school's ethos, which is encompassed in a child's attitude determining their altitude, the GSP will place a strong emphasis on self-discipline, good manners and courtesy.



Our Grammar School Pathway pupils visited two academic institutions as part of the programme:

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February pupils visited the University College of Osteopathy. They learned about osteopathy, university pathways and the anatomy.



On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February pupils visited St Mary's University College where they learned more about university life.



**FUELLERS' ACADEMIC LECTURE SERIES**

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January a mixture of Year 8 and 9 Academic Leaders attended a workshop delivered by Catheryn-Ayne Hunte, a freelance solution architect.

Before having to work in teams to create a solution for a potential client, pupils were provided with certain examples and rules that make up a solution model.

Pupils were given a case study in which to create a solution model for BMW Latin America who were looking to promote their launch of the new BMW 1 Series.

Pupils had 20 minutes in which to build a model which would allow BMW to target users of Facebook and provide BMW with user data through an application program interface (API).

It was a thoroughly useful, exciting and challenging workshop for our pupils who were

able to demonstrate their analytical and creative-thinking skills, in addition to learning about a new type of career.



On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January, our Academic Leaders attended a visiting lecture delivered by Martin Fry, lecturer at the City of London University and energy consultant.

Given the vitally topical issue of energy usage and its impact on our carbon footprint, this was an important and thought-provoking talk. With the UK aiming to be carbon neutral by 2050, Mr Fry gave an overview of energy usage and the progress made to date, the work of civil, mechanical and electrical engineers in changing the habits of major energy companies, private businesses and energy usage from individuals and, according to Mr Fry, starting to see the levels of carbon emissions even out. What was made clear to our pupils was that it is their generation that will be the ones who will need to continue to

drive the change in order to save our planet.



Mr Fry discussed engineering and its relationship to energy, growing public awareness, changes over time, future presenting challenges and other issues linked to reducing energy demand.

Pupils had some thought-provoking and insightful questions for Mr Fry, particularly surrounding the aims of the energy providers, the potential of a decentralised energy grid and the roles of engineers. The engaging session was a wonderful forum for a fascinating debate and an exchange of ideas.

### DEBATE MATE

Since returning in November 2019, Debate Mate has continued to grow and pupils have continued to develop their skills and talents, showcasing them in two different competitions around London in 2020.

From January, pupils began to prepare to take part in debating competitions against other schools across London. Week in, week out, pupils were working on improving skills that they have been learning since the start of the school year.

The first round of the first debating competition, the Urban Debate League, took place on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020. A team of five pupils from years 7 and 8 visited Notre Dame RC Secondary Girls School, Southwark. They were:

- Ahmed Hasoun Mohamed 7A

- Ryan Channer 7A
- Ali Osman 7A
- Menal Ahmed 7B
- Osarodion Obayangbona 8C

These pupils competed in two different debates against two schools and were narrowly beaten in both debates. All five pupils took part, showcasing their debating skills that they have been developing on a weekly basis since November. All pupils debated excellently and were a credit to the school.

Round 2 of the Urban Debate League took place at Pimlico Academy on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Two teams competed.

- Aaron Ahua 7A
- Ahmed hasoun Mohamed 7A
- Abdullah Abdulalim 7C
- Abdulrahman Abdulalim 7A
- Ryan Channer 7A
- Samuele Rascini 7A
- Suhayla Ahmed 7B
- Yasmin Elhag-Salih 7W

Both teams performed excellently and showcased their debating skills very well. Team Platanos won one debate and lost another but, once again, were a credit to the school.

Well done to everyone involved in Debate Mate and we look forward to getting back to normal soon!

### THE WRITING ACADEMY

It is no exaggeration in saying that all of the staff involved with the Writing Academy remain immensely proud and impressed by the efforts of the pupils involved. We had some returning writers from year 8 and new members from year 9 who worked particularly well; their creativity really spoke to the talented pupils that we have at Platanos College.



We are now in the third year of the programme with our writer in residence Lewis Buxton. Our poet has a wonderful manner with the pupils who respond well to his positive demeanour. Each Wednesday afternoon we gather to write, share stories and all the important biscuits that help to fuel young minds.

The anthology, entitled *Paradise*, is now complete and covers a vast array of themes. We have poems about the tragic fire in Australia this year, we have work on the importance of glasses and what Friday sounds like.

As in previous years we have the return of the six word story and work based on ideas of nature and of our planet. All of the work is independently produced by the pupils with gentle encouragement from Lewis and the teachers that help support the programme.

We would usually be making preparations for the official anthology launch at this point but, sadly, the uncertainty of when the school is going to reopen means we are looking at an autumn launch. It has been a joy to work with all of the pupils this year and they should be rightly proud of their superb efforts this year. We look forward to being able to celebrate your work as a school community.



## TEAM UP

Over the last half term year 7 and year 8 pupils have made significant progress in both Numeracy and Literacy due to hard work in lessons but also due to their additional intervention with Team Up every Tuesday after school.

Pupils have been working with their tutors on a variety of topics in Maths and English lessons to refine their knowledge and skills. Pupils have become more confident in using the skills that they are learning and consolidating during their Team Up sessions; this confidence has transferred to the classroom with pupils stating that they feel more self-assured in lessons. By acquiring this confidence in numeracy and literacy in year 7 and year 8, pupils are ensuring that they are in a position to transition into the next academic year with the best possible head start.

The last cohort of Team Up pupils made between .5 and 2 grades of progress in just nine weeks. This was a fantastic achievement for those pupils and we are confident this current cohort of Team Up pupils will progress just as well.

Congratulation to the following pupils who have made significant progress since becoming members of Team Up:

- Year 7: Inayah Rose/ Zakiah Rose
- Year 8: Jaden Asare/ Molly Beaton/ Menelik Nwadiakor-O'Connor
- Year 9: Nada Said/ Dunya Al-Shimary.

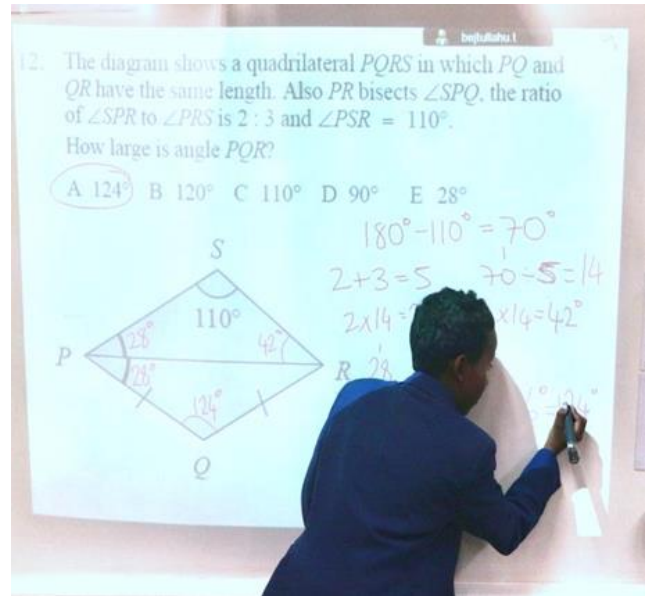
**MATHEMATICS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

Pupils have undergone numerous activities to boost their mental cognition as well as their confidence in solving problems in the Centre of Excellence sessions. Pupils use manipulatives, such as multi-link cubes, to answer difficult questions which involve visual ability and methodology to be successful, a skill often tested in the Mathematical Challenges.



Even though there is time to work individually to improve mathematical techniques and gain problem solving experience in constricted time limits, working collaboratively is an aspect which pupils find extremely enjoyable and an opportunity to expose their competitive sides.

Pupils work against other teams to gain 'points'. This is a significant period in which pupils can impart their knowledge but, most importantly, it provides the opportunity to learn from others in other year groups. Pupils take the lead by demonstrating solutions in multiple ways and they become the teacher.



**MATHEMATICS REASONING CLUB**

The KS3 Reasoning Club has been running since October. The club provides pupils the opportunity to apply and use maths in settings outside of the classroom.



Pupils complete puzzles, riddles and solve mysteries using mathematical skills. The environment is enjoyable with pupils across years 7 to 9 working together or independently to finish and complete puzzles. Activities within the club help to develop new skills and pupils can learn from one another.

The skills pupils foster and develop here will help them greatly at GCSE. We place a greater emphasis on the importance of reasoning and problem-solving skills, which are useful in all subjects - not just maths.



## MATHS BOOSTER CLASSES



The Maths Booster class provides pupils with an opportunity for pupils to learn fascinating tricks in Maths to help boost their confidence within their lessons. The classes help to bridge gaps in knowledge in a fun and exciting way. It is a place where the children can work together to improve their mathematical skills as well as spend some time with their peers.

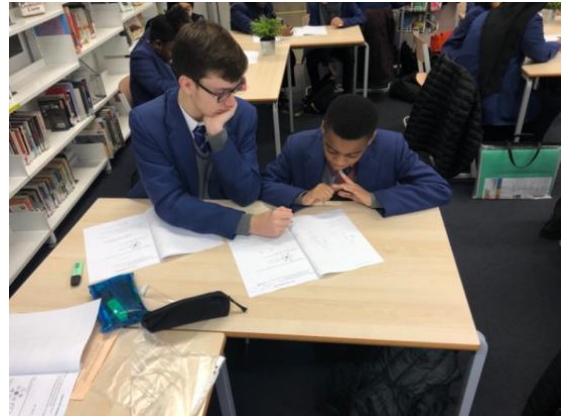
*“Maths booster is very fun. Our teacher helps us with our work and shows us easier methods to follow in maths. He also helps us with our homework if we need help using the things we have learnt in the booster. It’s very fun and has also improved my maths tremendously.”* (Year 7 pupil).

## MATHS TUTORSHIP

Fifteen of the Most Able Disadvantaged pupils in the year 7 cohort have been mentored by some of the year 11 Academic Leaders and prefects.

The pupils attended one session per week in the school library during their registration time. Each Year 7 pupil was assigned a mentor who provided one-to-one support which enabled

pupils to develop their reasoning and problems solving skills. Pupils were provided with resource packs containing a variety of problems which they solved with support from the mentors. The year 7 pupils and their mentors enjoyed the programme and it was beneficial to both sets of pupils.



*Year 7 pupil: A place where you can improve your maths and meet year 11s.*

*Year 7 pupil: I think it's a bit helpful because I learnt a few things that I didn't know before. I think it was a bit fun.*



## SCIENCE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

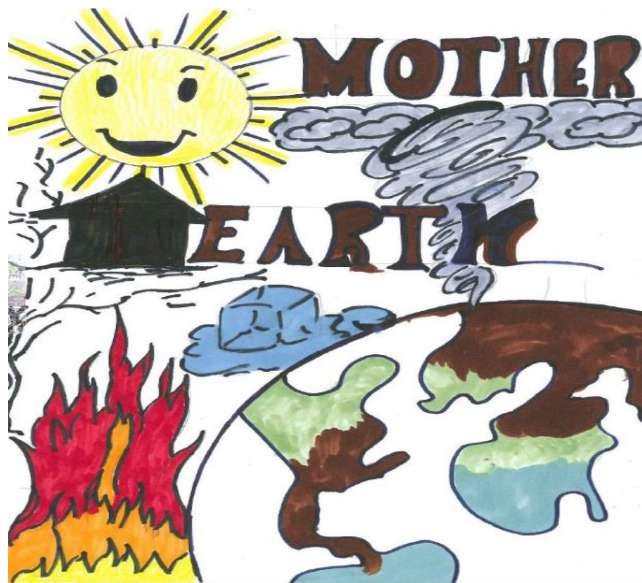
In the KS3 Science Centre of Excellence, pupils have been exploring how science, technology, engineering and maths will enhance the future.

In the most recent project, 'How could we augment ourselves?' pupils have looked at the

ways that engineers use their understanding of anatomy to build prosthetic limbs for people who are born without some or all of their lower arm or others that lose part or all of their arm in accidents or in war.

Pupils then embarked on the task to create simple versions of a prosthetic arm that illustrates some of the principles used to build them.

**CREATIVE WRITING ANTHOLOGY: 'MOTHER EARTH'**



This anthology of original writing produced by our Key Stage 3 pupils, expresses their individual thoughts about the planet we live on, the beauty of the Earth and the threat of Climate Change.

Each class in years 7 to 9 were asked to watch two contrasting video clips about the Earth, discuss the science behind Climate Change and consider different portrayals of nature personified as Mother Earth.

We then used these as inspiration for our own creative poems; from these, a selection was chosen from every class and collated to create the anthology.

Notice to all readers! This is a teacher free zone! All the creative writing and art work throughout this anthology has been produced by our pupils. Through their creativity they have tried to express their views and thoughts about our planet and the threat of Climate Change.

Our pupils know that they are the voices of tomorrow who will need to pull together to tackle the danger that threatens our planet.



**ART AND DESIGN TRIP TO THE TATE BRITAIN**

Year 9 Art and Design pupils visited the Tate Britain. Pupils explored and discovered a range of artworks from 18th century masters like William Blake to contemporary installations and sculptures from artists such as Sarah Lucas.

Pupils discussed, debated and studied the artwork through a range of written analysis and observational drawing tasks to gain evidence for their projects at school. Experienced art experts gave the pupils informative and interesting talks about the artworks and pupils asked intelligent informed questions to broaden their horizons.

**ANNE FRANK AMBASSADOR WORKSHOP**

Platanos College were fortunate to work, once again, in collaboration with the Anne Frank Trust – an organisation promoting the message that discrimination and prejudice have no place in society today.

Anne Frank was a Dutch-Jewish teenager who died at the age of 15 in the Bergen-Belsen

Concentration Camp. Her tragic death in February 1945 (three months before the end of World War Two) became memorialised when her father decided to publish Anne's diary. This diary conveyed to the world a valuable lesson about what happens when discrimination becomes widespread within our communities, or around the world. The Holocaust claimed the lives of at least six million (6,000,000) people.

The Anne Frank Trust set up a temporary exhibition within the school detailing the life of the Frank family, the struggle of going into hiding for two years, and how tragedy struck once the Nazis uncovered the family's location, leading to Anne's death. This story is set against the backdrop of the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany during the 1930s.

Anne Frank's story is one which resonates with us today as prejudice and discrimination are still powerful forces in the world around us. This can be seen just by listening to the news.

A group of twenty pupils were chosen from year 9 to become Peer Guides. They were trained to explain portions of the exhibition to other pupils in years 7, 8 and 9. The subject matter was explained with sensitivity but introduced our younger pupils to a reality of human nature.



Over a two week period pupils in Key Stage 3 were exposed to the story of Anne Frank and were led around the exhibition by our knowledgeable guides. Pupils were able to ask the Peer Guides questions about Anne's life and the Holocaust. Our Key Stage 3 pupils showed curiosity and engagement in the exhibition and impressed the organisers from the Anne Frank Trust who trained our Guides.

It was a delight to see our Year 9 pupils grow in confidence when explaining the story, as well as becoming emboldened to challenge discrimination and prejudice. All of the Year 9 pupils also attended a follow up workshop on the theme of discrimination today.

Not only did pupils learn about a valuable lesson from history, they worked on their skills of presentation and leadership.

Pupils were overwhelmingly positive about the learning gains they made from being involved in the project. Many explained that they learnt more about themselves from taking part and felt more confident about standing up and leading.

This year, our group of Peer Guides were certainly impressive. They presented their sessions with maturity and sensitivity. They were able to work in teams to organise their individual roles. Members of staff who attended the exhibition conveyed how captivated they were by the Peer Guides' work. These pupils have already completed work on their next steps – planning an assembly which will be presented to year groups in the school.

We hope that the project proved memorable and will stay with pupils for life. Ensuring their own perceptions and actions within the modern world will reflect values of tolerance, respect, and equality for all. We are very proud of our pupils and our community, and the Anne Frank workshops represented the very best of our values at Platanos College.

#### **WORLD WAR ONE BATTLEFIELDS TRIP**

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February, the History department took 48 Year 9 pupils to Ypres, Belgium for the day. The trip was part of pupils' Year 9 studies on World War One. Pupils had the opportunity to visit the Flanders Field museum, tour various memorial sites and walk through a reconstruction of a WW1 trench on the site of an important battle during the war. The trip also gave pupils the opportunity to visit the town of Ypres and sample the famous Belgian chocolates and waffles.



On arrival, pupils were able to walk through the Menin Gate into the town centre of Ypres and experience what a Belgian town looks and feels like.



Our first stop on our guided tour was Essex Farm cemetery, a memorial and graveyard dedicated to the French, British and Commonwealth soldiers. This site also holds the remains of an advanced dressing station in which the pupils were able to explore to gain a real understanding of the medical capabilities of the armed services during WW1. This was of great importance as it was the battlefield in which the Canadian Army Doctor Major John McCrae composed his famous poem "In Flanders Fields". However, what moved our pupils the most was seeing the grave of Rifleman Valentine Joe Strudwick, a 15-year-old who signed up to the war even though the age limit was 18 years old.



It was a pleasure to watch pupils learn about WW1 in more detail in the Flanders Field museum. Many of the pupils were able to discuss extra knowledge that they learned from the museum. This included learning about the nicknames given to trenches by the soldiers. The database showing information about every soldier that fought and died in Ypres was particularly shocking to many of our pupils.

After the museum we were taken on a guided tour of a number of WW1 memorials. The pupils really benefitted from his discussion of the course of the war and the importance of Ypres as a strategic place in the war.



Our next stop was Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth military cemetery in the world. The cemetery contains the graves of nearly 12,000 soldiers and the sheer scale of the place took many pupils aback.

Our final stop was Hoge Crater, a museum and replica trench. The museum brought the war to life through a collection of WW1 memorabilia and pictorials showing what a time in the war may have looked like.



The highlight of the museum however was their replica trench, our guide was able to show us what Ypres looked like in the war and show us the land gained and lost by the British on the very land we were stood on.



**FACT OR FICTION CLUB**

Each week our pupils investigate different films that are based on a particular period of time. For example, in one of our sessions pupils were shown the film 'A Christmas Carol'. It is a film set


during the Victorian period, where a great number of changes took place in society.

Having watched the film, our young historians then have to decide whether or not it represented an accurate depiction of that time period – which is why it is called the History 'Fact or Fiction' club. Our pupils work to discover the real history of each movie by exposing any false ideas within the film.

Platanos College is proud of its pupils' enthusiasm for learning, and the History Club is yet another example of this. KS3 pupils usually attend sessions from 3:15pm to 4:15pm every Thursday after school.

What is **fact** and what is **fiction** in the film?  
Here are some questions to get you thinking:

**Fact:** Something that is true and accurate  
**Fiction:** Something that is usually made up, not to be truthful



- When was the novel written?
- What was life like in Victorian England?
- How are different classes represented in this movie?
- What examples of religion could you see?
- What fictitious/supernatural elements are in the film?

However, due to the recent school closure, we have decided to bring our lessons online and upload them to Show My Homework every Thursday. The continued participation and hard work of pupils has been nothing short of inspiring.

One pupil commented that History Club is important because it helps us 'learn from the mistakes of the past'. This is an important message that we aim to teach our pupils - that each individual can provide a meaningful contribution to our society.

**YEAR 7 NETBALL**

*Platanos College vs Woodmansterne School*

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January, the year 7 netball team had their first netball match for the new year and all of the girls were excited to participate in this fixture.

Platanos College played Woodmansterne School. Platanos College had a good start and were successfully linking passes in order to get the ball into the Platanos College goal third. However, Woodmansterne School had a really strong shooter and were able to go 2-0 ahead of Platanos College at half time.

Platanos College were determined to take back control and get some goals. With this determination, the Platanos College team were able to score their first goal of the match and the girls were very excited.

However, the game finished 3-2 to Woodmansterne. Although, it was a loss for the Platanos College, they were very upbeat and proud of their performance and ready for the next fixture.

#### *Platanos College at the Year 7 Lambeth Schools Netball Tournament*

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February the year 7 netball team were involved in the Year 7 Lambeth Schools Netball Tournament.

Platanos College played five different teams - unfortunately, the first two matches that the Platanos College played were defeats, but the scores were close. The determination of the pupils led to a draw and victories in the last two games.

The day could have not been as successful without the support of two year 11 pupils who previously played netball for the school, Alexis Lindo and Valeri Piriros.



*Platanos College vs Elm Green School*

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, Platanos College played an away match against Elm Green School.

It was a highly energetic game right from the start and both teams were determined. However, Elm Green just had the edge over Platanos College and by the end of the first half they were 2-0 ahead.

However, Platanos College showed terrific attitude and made a great comeback, with the game ending in a 3-3 draw.

The spirit of the Year 7 Netball team during this short netball season has been so wonderful to experience. They have been extremely energetic, always willing to learn, super focussed on the end goal, and they have consistently demonstrated that Attitude Determines Altitude.

Well done to: Melissa Bryan 7H, Mariama Diallo 7H, Shyla Fenton-Duhaney 7B, Medina Flash 7D, Regina Fonseca 7W, Shani Hall-Whitrod 7H, Lakyshai Jagdath 7H, Tamera Jerry 7W, Macia Kafe 7W, Halimah Olatunji 7E, Mya Pinto 7H and Miracle McFarlan 7D.

### **YEAR 9 NETBALL**

The year 9 girls' resilience, endurance and desire to keep training should be congratulated.

A highlight in the Spring term was the year 9s convincing win over Lambeth Academy which ended 7-3. Here, the team showcased a number of set plays, movements and skills they had developed during their training. A particular mention should be made for the individuals in year 8 who also played up a year group to assist their peers in their win. These pupils did not look out of place and the mix of abilities, ages and strengths worked seamlessly with amazing teamwork.

This was a very proud moment with a very wholesome and positive environment by all members of the club present, either supporting and watching or playing. A number of girls have made exceptional progress this year including Rochelle, Sashaya, Gerisha, Nyeemah, Mariama, Shairah, Khiara, Bolu, Shadae, Ruquaya and Leshontay, to name a few.



### SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS

Our years 7 and 8 pupils represented the school in the Boys and Girls Lambeth School's Sports Hall Athletics Championship.



The Lambeth School's sports hall event is a competition where traditionally Platanos College has done very well, winning the event and representing Lambeth in regional championships. Therefore, the pupils were made aware that they had a strong reputation to uphold.

The year 8 pupils were very supportive in helping our year 7 pupils to understand the nature of the sports hall event and were also able to show them the basic technique within each of the eleven strenuous events.

A lot of the preparation work was spent on the relay baton changeovers technique and this proved to be a crucial element with our teams winning all four relay races this year. In fact, other teachers, the organisers and pupils from other schools commented on how spectacular our baton changes were.



The speed endurance events were not our strongest events, but we redeemed ourselves by winning both the eight laps par race. Our year 8 teams, in particular, had to dig deep as they were three team members short in the boys' team and two in the girls, so they had to quickly overcome the build-up of lactic acid in the muscles and repay their oxygen debt as they completed these speed endurance events. All four teams produced outstanding performances in the different field events: speed bounce, shot put, vertical jump, standing long jump and standing triple jump.

Congratulations all of the athletes who represented Platanos College at this annual Lambeth school's competition.

Our year 7 girls finished in respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> place, however our year 8 girls, year 7 boys and year 8 boy's teams were all crowned Lambeth Champions and each team went through to represent Lambeth at the London Youth Games in the Sports Hall Regional Championships in February 2020. We are so proud of all of our pupils who represented our school.

We have never had three groups go through at the same time to represent Lambeth at the London Youth Games regional championships!

A massive well done to all pupils who represented Platanos College at this prestigious sporting event.

### YEARS 7 AND 8 FOOTBALL

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, St Matthews Project hosted their yearly years 7 and 8 six-a-side football tournament.

For the year 7 pupils, it was their first competitive tournament for the school and so it was a nervous start. As the day progressed the team started to show more confidence and grew into the tournament.



There was some stiff opposition in our group stage however the team was able to finish in a respectable third position, just missing out on a semi-final place.

The team was made up of mainly year 7 pupils and so this was an achievement for them. The team was in high spirits and are looking forward to the tournament next academic year to hopefully go a step further. Well done to all the pupils involved.

### KS3 TABLE TENNIS

The table tennis club has gone from strength to strength in terms of pupil participation. Nearly thirty pupils regularly attend each session.



Every Tuesday pupils are enthusiastic, ready and punctual to all sessions. They work well and cooperatively within the various groups and they thrive on the opportunities for competition and the different measures and means to challenge themselves. As a result, there is a natural development in the enhancement of their array of skills.



### KS3 BOXING AND FITNESS CLUB

Throughout this academic year boxing fitness has proven to be a popular KS3 club every Monday. There is currently over fifty registered KS3 pupils, of whom around 25-30 have attended enthusiastically. These pupils, from years 7, 8 and 9, have been taught basic boxing skills and techniques which they have now started to apply to competitive scenarios, such as body sparring and Olympic style points competitions.

In addition, pupils have also developed their health, fitness and self-esteem by participating in a range of fitness and conditioning activities. Due to the organisation of the club sessions, pupils



have been encouraged to work individually to refine and adapt skills but also in pairs and in small groups.

As a consequence, pupils have started to develop their analytical and coaching skills and are afforded the opportunity to work with others in different year groups to develop their padding skills and their ability to officiate small competitions. This is important for pupils as it helps to build confidence and their ability to interact and socialise with those in different year groups.

Pupils have relished every opportunity to work with staff whether on pads, shadow boxing or lastly when touch sparring.



### NETBALL CLUB

The Netball Club has developed around a core group of approximately thirty pupils across Key Stage 3 who are very skilled, enthusiastic and passionate.

The year 8s have developed extremely well with improved fitness, a better understanding of the game and some brilliant partnerships throughout the court.

The year 9s built further upon their vastly talented squad and had a lot of success with the games that they did play. Alongside this they impressed Ms Simpson with their knowledge of the sport, leadership skills and creativity when they also delivered some of their own drills to peers during their peri sessions.



### BASKETBALL CLUB

There has been great growth in the basketball programme this academic year. Girls' participation has increased, and the team is starting to work well together.

The year 8 and 9 teams have now been taking on leadership responsibilities and have begun to coach younger pupils; this is testament to their commitment and dedication to the basketball programme.



The under 14s boys team finished runners up in the Lambeth School Competition. The team

played extremely well but were unlucky to lose one game which was the deciding factor.

Orhue Austin 8W, who is also a member of the under 14 team, is now playing National League level and is on the England Pathway programme - this is a fantastic achievement.

### GIRLS' FOOTBALL

Since the start of January, girls' football has continued to be well attended

Pupils have continued to work with the external coaches from BigKid Foundation and have shown great commitment, hard work and dedication in each session. Unfortunately, due to the poor weather we have experience this year, a lot of league matches and various competitions have been cancelled and have not been able to be fulfilled. In spite of this, the training and development hasn't stopped, and the girls will be raring to go whenever fixtures resume.

### KS3 FOOTBALL

Key Stage 3 boys' football teams have continued to work hard in their training sessions and in their individual peri lessons, where they are showing a great deal of promise.

As with many outdoor fixtures this academic year, a lot have been cancelled due to the consistent poor and unpredictable weather. This has hampered our involvement this academic year. However, the boys remain focused and ready to go whenever fixtures resume.

### WELLBEING CHAMPIONS

At Platanos College Wellbeing is a daily key focus within the school among all staff, pupils and our stakeholders. We have dedicated Wellbeing Champions from years 7-11 who work alongside our Wellbeing management team to help promote the importance of Wellbeing.

Throughout the Spring term the Wellbeing Champions worked on a short documentary. The Wellbeing Champions wrote, performed and

edited the documentary which presents three scenarios that highlights the effects of mental health on families, individuals and friendship groups. The documentary is a credit to the dedication shown by our pupils who are supportive and work in unity to ensure that this important message is shared and understood by all.



### MENTAL WELLBEING

Many of you will currently be feeling anxious because of the dramatic change to our lives.

This is normal. It is okay to feel this way. Please remember: YOU ARE NOT ALONE! Many of us are feeling the same way. We must bide our time and sooner rather than later things will return to normal. Try to help your mental wellbeing in the meantime:

- Limit the amount of news you watch and read. The constant reminder will only add to your anxiety.
- Read a novel or listen to an audio book. This will act as escapism and take your imagination to new and exciting places.
- Limit the amount of social media you access – fake news thrives on social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat. Fake news will only worsen your anxieties.
- Exercise – you are allowed out of your homes for a walk or another form of exercise. However, try out PE with Joe Wicks' – your teachers have been. Exercise releases chemicals called endorphins which trigger a positive feeling in your body.
- Keep to a routine – set an alarm in the morning, make your bed, brush your teeth,

set aside time for school work, set aside time for downtime and exercise, and do not go to bed too late.

## ASSEMBLIES

We have witnessed some outstanding assemblies this term. Some of the highlights can be seen below.

**National Careers Week:** assemblies delivered by pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 on careers and pathways.



**International Women's Day:** assemblies delivered by pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 on the current status of women's rights worldwide and the importance of women in today's society.



**Holocaust Memorial Day:** the whole school met to listen to the history of the Holocaust and to consider the impact of the Holocaust on our lives today.

## UNIFORM

Please ensure that your child has the correct uniform for their return to school. **This includes hair cuts which should be of a straight forward style – natural colour without lines or patterns. Lines cut into eyebrows are not allowed.**

- Boys are not permitted to wear earrings. Girls are permitted to wear a small stud in the lobe of each ear. **No other piercings are permitted.**
- Uniform includes: school blazer, school tie in house colours, formal white collar shirt, grey or black trousers (not denim), black or grey skirt for girls, black or grey socks, school shoes (not boots/ canvas shoes/ trainer style shoes).
- For girls who wear a hijab this must be only plain dark blue, plain black, plain white or plain grey.

We have enjoyed a relatively mild winter so far; however temperatures are set to drop in the foreseeable future.

Please ensure that your child attends school with additional layers of clothing, warm coats (no hoodies), scarves, gloves, etc.

Keeping warm over the winter months can help prevent cold and flu which have a significant impact on pupil's attendance.

## EQUIPMENT

May we also take this opportunity to remind parents/carers that we expect all our pupils to be fully equipped to learn in their lessons.

The following items are absolutely essential for all pupils and will be needed at all times:

- A sensible black or blue school bag
- A set of blue or black pens
- A ruler
- A pencil and pencil sharpener
- An eraser
- A scientific calculator
- A dictionary
- A reading book

We hope you will be able to support us in maintaining a positive learning ethos by encouraging your child to carry all the above equipment to school on a daily basis.

Please also ensure that school planners are checked regularly and signed on a weekly basis.

Many thanks for your continued support in this matter.

## STAYING SAFE ONLINE

With all the positives of technological advances, comes the downside.

Please see below advice provided by Childline to ensure that your children remain safe when online.

1. Your children should be careful what they share online:

- when choosing a profile picture for a social networking website like Facebook or Twitter, avoid photos that could give people you don't know information about where you live
- check privacy settings regularly, including on smart devices like wearables.
- think about what should be shared in public and what shouldn't be kept private
- check your location settings – some sites, apps and devices let you share your location with other users. Turning off location settings can help protect your privacy

- Remember photos shared on social media then belong to social media.

2. Think before posting

Children should not upload or share anything that they wouldn't want their parents, teachers or friends seeing. Once you press send, it is no longer private. Anything sent can be shared with other people and no one can be sure who will end up seeing it.

Live streaming and apps like Snapchat can feel safer because they aren't permanent. But anything you post online can be screenshotted and recorded and if that happens it's out of your control.

3. Never share or reveal passwords

Use strong passwords that are hard for others to guess, using a mix of letters, numbers and symbols like (like £, \$, &, !, etc.). Keep passwords to yourself and change them regularly.

If you can access a device remotely, changing the default password can keep it safer and make it harder for other people to access.

4. Who are your children talking to?

If somebody your child doesn't know adds your child as a friend, they should ignore them and delete their request. Personal information like their address or phone number should not be shared with a stranger.

Parents and carers have a duty of care to ensure that their child is safe when online. They should be monitoring their child's devices to see what platforms they are using and that they are behaving in a way that keeps both them and others safe.

## 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 inform the main office as soon as possible or email [info@platanoscollege.com](mailto:info@platanoscollege.com)

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

### PLATANOS COLLEGE ON TWITTER

In September 2019 the school joined social media! Please follow us @platanoscollege in order to see regular updates of the achievements of our pupils.

### SHOW MY HOMEWORK

Work should be uploaded onto SMHW and your teachers will check this for you.

If you have a problem with uploading to SMHW you can add your work as an attachment to the pastoral email addresses. Your Pastoral Manager will forward any work to the relevant departments.

In the coming weeks we will be developing rewards those of you who regularly use SMHW and upload outstanding work.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

During this time of uncertainty, all of us at the school wish you and your families well. We hope that you stay safe and healthy. We urge all to continue to follow the government's guidance on coronavirus:

1. Stay at home.
2. Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home).
3. If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times.
4. Wash your hands as soon as you get home.
5. Do not meet others, even friends or family (unless you live with them).

