



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

Key Stage 4 Newsletter

April 2020

Attitude Determines Altitude

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

WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and your extended families are all safe and well. It is indeed a time of great uncertainty. We hope that you are finding new ways to adapt to these extraordinary circumstances.

We would like to extend a huge thank you for your continued support in helping us to continue to provide an education for your child.

Platanos College is committed to providing our pupils with the best learning experience that we can. We have built an online curriculum which is catering for each and every pupil. The vast majority of our pupils are now accessing our online provision which is so very important.

This is an extremely challenging time for our country. We look to support our pupils as much as we can, this includes our Year 11 pupils as they prepare for their next steps.

MESSAGE TO YEAR 11 PUPILS

We know that you are saddened by the news that you will not get the opportunity to sit your GCSE exams this year; especially in view of all your hard work and commitment.

Equally, the prospect of not having the chance to say goodbye to your teachers and peers or the opportunity to be a part of some of the other key highlights of year 11, such as the prom and leavers assembly is something we must acknowledge as a loss.

What do I do now?

Whilst it may seem like your end goal has been taken away from you, this is not the case. It has merely changed due to these extraordinary circumstances.

- You must continue to stay motivated.
- You must focus on what interests you.
- Complete the A level units of work we have started to upload for you.
- Continue to complete the work set (to the best of your ability) and make sure you don't stop learning.

- If you are going on to study Science at A level, then attempt to study some of the year 12 curriculum online.

We will continue to support you and work tirelessly to ensure you all receive the recognition you deserve for all your hard work.

It's important that you continue to work hard towards your end goal; no matter what your choices are.

Learning never stops. Remember our school motto, '**Attitude Determines Altitude**'. You are and will always be a pupil of Platanos College.

This is a great time to ensure you are developing and consolidating your skills and knowledge, which will be required for your next stage of learning.

We have an unshakable belief in you, and we know that you possess all the attributes and values you need to be successful. Remember you are outstanding.

Finally, over the coming weeks, I will be contacting many of you to confirm your intended destination for your future study.

YEAR 11 TRANSITION NOTICE

Many of you will have questions about your college applications or interviews. Some of the colleges have been in contact with Platanos College and provided the school with updates for your information. This is to enable you to continue with your application and assist with enrolment.

Please see updates from the following;
John Ruskin College

- If you applied to the college but missed your interview you will be contacted for a phone interview.

- Anyone who is interested in applying to the college can apply online via the website www.johnruskin.ac.uk

Southwark College

- Southwark College is continuing to accept new and existing applications using their online systems.
- If you are interested in apprenticeships email: apprenticeships@lscollge.ac.uk

Please continue to look at the websites of all colleges/6th forms for regular updates on enrolment, applying and interviews.

PLATANOS COLLEGE IN THE COMMUNITY

Amid the coronavirus outbreak, Platanos College was delighted to donate its personal protective equipment (PPE) from the Technology and Science department to the staff at Royal Trinity Hospice. Platanos College is extremely proud to be able to support these local heroes during this difficult time.



RoyalTrinityHospice

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. ❤️



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THANK YOU MESSAGE TO THE HEAD BOY AND GIRL, AND TO THE PREFECT TEAM

Platanos College would like to acknowledge and express our most sincere thanks to the Prefect, Head Boy and Head Girl Team for all their hard work. Your contribution and commitment to your role and responsibilities has been invaluable and we are truly grateful.

You have consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership skills and we are very proud of the many things you have achieved at our school whilst in such a prestigious role. You are truly a resilient group and we have enjoyed working with you very much.

We wish you all the best of luck for the future and look forward to hearing about your future successes and achievements.



Robert Karapetian
Head Boy

Mia Adeboye
Head Girl

Head Boy & Head Girl Team 2019 -2020



Necat Gulla Deputy Head Boy **Tania Monteiro** Deputy Head Girl **Asyo Mohamud** Deputy Head Girl **Suweyda Ahmed** Deputy Head Girl **Jaelan Inglis** Deputy Head Boy

MESSAGE TO YEAR 10 PUPILS

We know that you must have many questions that you would like answered and there are two questions which pupils have asked:

- What is going to happen, do we have to learn more in less time next year?
- Should I complete all the work on Show my homework?

What is going to happen, do we have to learn more in less time next year?

Firstly, all of the work which has been set on Show my homework is the work which you would be learning in school.

We have uploaded the equivalent number of lessons and topics to ensure that you are not missing out.

We are following the same curriculum and subjects have put additional revision material online too.

Should I complete all of the work on Show my homework or just choose what I like best?

It is important that you keep up to date with your studies across the curriculum, try not to choose what you are comfortable with or the subjects you enjoy the most. You must keep on learning across the curriculum.

We have set up the pastoral email address ks4pastoral@platanoscollege.com to assist you with anything you may need:

- Lost logins and passwords
- Up to date contact details
- A chance to ask us about your learning or seek further clarity.

What do I do now?

We will continue to support you and work ensure your work is marked and sent back to you.

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It is so very important that you continue to work harder than ever before. This is because you can use this time to catch up and accelerate your learning.

This is a great time to ensure you are developing and consolidating your skills and knowledge, which will be required in year 11.

We have an unshakable belief in you, and we know that you possess all the attributes and values you need to be successful Independent learners. Remember you are outstanding.

Learning never stops. Remember our school motto, '**Attitude Determines Altitude**'.

KS4 ONLINE LEARNING

We are using two main online learning platforms for key stage four pupils:

1. SAM Learning

To login, your child needs:

- Go to the website address: **www.samlearning.com**
- Our school centre ID: **SW9OSP**
- Their username: this is their date of birth followed by their initials, in the format DDMMYYII

Their password: if they have not yet logged in, this is the same as their username. If they have forgotten it, they can request it to be reset through the school, or SAM Learning's support desk.

2. Show my homework

Please be reminded of the login to show my homework.

Go to the website address:
www.satchelone.com/login

Work will be set on a regular basis and this is a way we can monitor pupils learning.

FUELLERS ACADEMIC LECTURE SERIES

On Monday 20th January, our Year 10 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. It was also 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.

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.

KS4 TRIPS TO ENHANCE LEARNING

On Thursday 23rd January 2020, our Year 11 Art pupils attended various trips to help them explore and develop their ideas for their individual exam project. Pupils were able to choose to either go to the Tate Modern and

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Leake Street, the National Portrait Gallery or the British Museum. They worked hard to gather source imagery, develop their ideas and appreciate the Artwork they experienced.



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

On Monday 27th January 2020, the whole school community came together to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 through a Whole school assembly hosted by the History department.

The theme for 2020 was *'Stand Together'* and the History department delivered a selection of readings based on this theme which gave the school community an opportunity to learn about the consequences of prejudice and hatred when it is allowed to exist unchallenged.



YEAR 11 FORMAL EXAMS (MOCKS)



Congratulations to our Year 11 pupils who sat their mock exam in January 2020 and in March 2020.

They worked tirelessly in preparation for these exams and we were incredibly proud of their conduct.

Well done Year 11's and thank you for all your hard work.

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WELLBEING CHAMPIONS



At Platanos College, Wellbeing is a daily and key focus within the school with all staff, pupils and stakeholders alike. We have dedicated Wellbeing Champions from years 7-11 who work alongside our Wellbeing management team to help promote the importance of Wellbeing and positive mental health. They also assist the school deliver a range of positive wellbeing activities in line with our wellbeing agenda.

Throughout the spring term our Wellbeing Champions worked on a short documentary to raise the awareness of mental health. They wrote, performed and edited a 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 Wellbeing Champions who are extremely supportive and proactive in their approach to tackle wellbeing issues and to ensure that this important message is shared and understood by all.

LDN APPRENTICESHIPS AND LA RETRAITE SIXTH FORM VISIT

On Wednesday 5th February 2020, LDN Apprenticeships hosted an assembly to our year 11 pupils. They shared their top tips on choosing the right career path and explored the apprenticeships routes into different professions.



Later on in the week, Mrs Coyle, Director of Learning and Sixth Form at La Retraite also hosted an assembly on the new T Levels qualification and their enormous benefits to young people interested in alternative route to the career of their dream.

T Levels are new courses coming in September 2020, which will follow GCSEs and will be equivalent to 3 A Levels. These 2-year courses have been developed in partnership with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry.

T Levels will offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). They will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship. La Retraite Sixth Form will be one of 50 centres in the UK who will offer these qualifications in Digital and Childcare and Education.



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OUR NEW LOCAL MP VISIT TO OUR SCHOOL

On Friday 14th February, we welcomed our local MP, Florence Eshalomi to our school. Mrs Eshalomi enjoyed a tour of the school and met our CEO, members of the Senior Leadership Team and some of our KS4 pupils who talked about aspirations and issues facing young people in Lambeth.



On Friday 6th March 2020, some of our young women in Year 10 presented a really inspiring assembly to the year group in celebration of International Women's Day.

International Women's Day (Sunday 8th March 2020) is a global day celebrating the historical, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day is also a call for further action to close the gender gap in terms of education, health, economics and politics.

ST JOHN AMBULANCE CADETS



On Sunday 16th February 2020, three of our year 11 St John Ambulance cadets (Amina Hoque, Suweyda Ahmed and Asiyu Mohamud) took part in the St John CPR day, sharing their expertise with members of the public at London Bridge; in particular how to perform CPR on children, babies and adults and how to use a defibrillator. Ms Webb said she was super proud of the cadets and members of the public were impressed by their knowledge and confidence.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY TRIP

On Tuesday 10th March, eleven Year 10 pupils had the opportunity to visit Cambridge University to learn more about university life as well as finding out more about applying to Oxford and Cambridge.

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Upon arrival, pupils had the opportunity to explore the St. Johns College campus with undergraduates after which they listened to a talk on 'Introduction to University and Cambridge'. This was led by Miss Gaia Fay Lambert who is the Schools Liaison and Access Officer. During this session the talk covered the assessment and application process as well as what is 'Oxbridge' (the collegiate system) and the appeal of the Cambridge universities.

The pupils also gained a greater insight into the similarities and differences between college and university life.

The final session was a taster Linguistic lecture session which was conducted by a PhD pupil who had an interactive session exploring the development and creation of sounds.

Overall, the trip was an insightful and amazing experience for our pupils. They enjoyed it thoroughly and now understand what it takes to attend such a renowned and prestigious college and university as an undergraduate student.



KS4 PASTORAL SUPPORT

We have set up a pastoral email address for parents. This is to ensure you can communicate with the pastoral manager, should you need to. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or queries.

Please find the email address below:

- ks4pastoral@platanoscollege.com

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

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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

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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

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.

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).

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



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