



Assembly notices

Monday 8th June 2020

Reflection for the week

In any society, discrimination against minority groups displays a lack of respect for the humanity of the people who are discriminated against. This has been proven through the actions that human kind has taken throughout history.

Covid-19 has further facilitated discrimination to extend worldwide, even more so than before. For example, the Native Americans in America who have been forced to confine themselves to their land, but in the meantime, they are repressed and cannot afford to support themselves. They have not been given any support by the government. Is this society being tolerant and respectful? Where is their help and support?

“Throughout their history, tribes have faced numerous and dark challenges, and they have always managed to overcome. ... It’s been a story of resilience and perseverance.”
— Eric Henson

Native Americans should be treated in the same way as any other ethnic group. Society should have the respect to provide for any group of people who are in need, especially during a pandemic.

We have heard about Brazil’s indigenous communities who are at risk of being “wiped out” due to their susceptibility to highly contagious diseases. This again is something that the world must address. Different groups of people are under threat in different ways. Brazil’s indigenous communities have been forced to find refuge in the Amazon.

The virus has spread rapidly in Amazonas, where more than 20,000 people have been infected with the virus, and 1,400 people have died. The spread has increased fears for the region's indigenous people, who have a history of being greatly affected by foreign diseases. Again, it appears to be an injustice. The indigenous communities are far more affected than other members of society. This was also the case historically. Where is their help and support?

Like many historical examples, we can look to history as an opportunity to look at the mistakes that were made and right these wrongs.

You would have undoubtedly seen the murder of George Floyd in the USA at the hands of the police. His death has sent shockwaves around the USA and around the world. We have seen protests on a daily basis in states and cities across the USA and in cities around the world. There have been protests in Hyde Park, Brixton, Peckham and outside the US embassy in Nine Elms.

These protests have been going on for decades and where there has been some change; there hasn’t been enough to see equality in opportunity or treatment for all members of society. The idea of injustice is worldwide and in for many different groups of people it is experienced differently.

Tolerance and respect are two of the values that we reinforce through everything we do at Platanos College, we teach you to be tolerant of other members of society and their beliefs. We teach you to respect other members of society and their beliefs. We teach you that people must be treated equally, irrespective of their race, religion, their gender or their sexuality.

Discrimination needs to be addressed by laws against it.

But laws cannot create respect, which can only happen through examples of respectful conversation shaping public life and personal relationships.

Respect is the business of the whole community.

Discrimination is unjust because it is built on a shallow and dangerous understanding of what it means to be human.

It assumes that the most important and defining quality of people is their race, religion, gender or sexuality. From that belief follows the conclusion that these characteristics shape the way in which people should be treated.

In fact, although different people's characteristics make up their identity, each person has a unique and high value simply by being a human.

We share a common humanity and therefore we are all entitled to an equal respect that does not benefit one group over others on the grounds of race, religion, gender or sexuality.

To discriminate against people on any of these grounds means denying the claims that their shared humanity makes on us and our society. It is not morally just.

Please see the assembly notices for this week:

Show My Homework – Year 10

We continue to stress that all pupils in year 10 should complete the work set on Show My Homework (SMHW). This work is a continuation of your GCSE courses. **This is irrespective of the year 10 baseline week. Learning continues online.**

Work will continue to be set on SMHW and this must be completed and submitted by the deadlines issued.

If there are immediate issues, please email Mr Edwards at KS4pastoral@platanoscollege.com or the subject specific email address.

Show My Homework – Years 7 – 9

Well done to all of our pupils who have continued to consistently use *Show My Homework* (SMHW) to complete lessons and work set by your teachers over the break. We continue to miss you all – and we are continuing to work tirelessly from home to ensure that your education can continue during these unprecedented and unusual times.

Work should be uploaded onto SMHW and your teachers will check this for you. If you see work has been set for you by a teacher that doesn't usually teach you – this is okay – you should still complete the work which has been set and upload this and it will be seen by your class teacher.

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

Year 11 Further Education

Colleges and 6th Forms are using a variety of ways to help you find out more about what is on offer:

Southwark College will be holding a series of Virtual Open Days

The events are open to all applicants and people considering to study at Southwark College and will be held between 2-7pm on:

Thursday 4 June

Thursday 25 June

Thursday 9 July

If you are interested then you will be able to register to attend sessions for each course area and apprenticeships, hear from the Principal and also find out more about enrichment, student services and work experience.

To register for the sessions you would like to attend, please visit the Virtual Open Days page on the college website website at www.southwark.ac.uk/virtualopendays.

Christ the King's year 11 Virtual School has a number of resources to support year 11 students with their transition to post 16 study and includes the following:

- Transition booklets for all the subjects they offer at Christ the King Sixth Forms which includes activities for students to complete, online and reading resources to help students prepare for their post 16 studies.
- A free careers download activity pack which students can access and work on.
- Year 11 Careers Hotline, if pupils need any impartial advice the Team are there to help at this difficult time.

The link to all the resources can be found <https://www.ctlc.ac.uk/year-11-careers-advice/>

West London College Virtual Open Days registration links can be found at wlc.ac.uk/opendays

John Ruskin College will be hosting a Virtual Open Event on Tuesday 23 June from 17:30 – 20:00.

Prospective students will be offered the chance to have 1:1 live chats with the Curriculum Team and Support Team specialists , including Apprenticeship talks, on the night and throughout the following week. The event will be a great opportunity to hear from their staff and to learn about the wide range of opportunities at the College.

If you need further advice on this, you should email ks4pastoral@platanoscollege.com for guidance.

Health and safety

We hope that you have been and continue to be well, safe and healthy. We continue to remember in our thoughts and prayers those who have been directly affected by coronavirus – staff, their families, our pupils and their families. If everyone works together this will come to an end. Please follow the advice set out by the UK government:

- stay at home as much as possible
- complete your school work at home
- limit contact with other people
- keep your distance if you go out (2 metres apart where possible)
- wash your hands regularly

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

Mental Wellbeing

Many of you will 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.

Uniform notice

We do not know when school will reopen. We are seeking and following advice from the government on a daily basis. However, when school does reopen – things will be as close to normal as possible. Therefore:

- Look after your school uniform
- Please do not get piercings – nose piercings, smiler piercings, eyebrow piercings or multiple piercings are not allowed – and boys are not allowed piercings at all
- Please do not get any outrageous hairstyles – no cuts or lines, no high top or big afros and hair must be your natural hair colour.

This will ensure your return to school will not be delayed even further.

Email addresses:

year7pastoral@platanoscollege.com

year8pastoral@platanoscollege.com

year9pastoral@platanoscollege.com

ks4pastoral@platanoscollege.com

Stay safe.

Attitude Determines Altitude