



Drayton Manor students have been committed to their school life this half term, working beyond expectations in all areas. We are pleased to see how their hard work and dedication are paying off.

**CELEBRATING EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENT**



In November, we celebrated the first Ethic of Excellence and the Spirit of Endeavour Awards of this academic year.

The Ethic of Excellence Award celebrates sustained excellence in a subject, a one-off outstanding piece of work, or contribution to the school community. The Spirit of Endeavour Award celebrates hard work and significant improvement in key areas of study. Students across all year groups are nominated for these awards by their teachers.

Students were enormously proud of their awards and enjoyed being congratulated by their parents and teachers for their achievements.

**AWARDS EVENING**



On Wednesday 9 November, we held our Annual Awards Ceremony to celebrate the sporting, academic, musical and civic achievement of over 200 students in the previous academic year. Students' families joined staff and Governors for the event. We were delighted to welcome our alum Rebecca Banovic as our guest of honour.

Rebecca now works for Sky News and has been identified as one of the industry's rising stars. She has interviewed Prime Ministers, US Presidents (including Barack Obama) and worked alongside Jeff Bezos, former President and CEO of Amazon. Rebecca also works with leading charities to ensure a fairer and more equal society.

Students were inspired by Rebecca's speech. They said her experience at Drayton Manor resonated with them and they learned how resilient Rebecca was when she worked hard to achieve her dream of becoming a journalist. The Head Boy Abubakr and Head Girl Harnoor presided over the ceremony. It was lovely to welcome back students who left in the summer and who are now at university.



Four poets - Fares (7J), Eliza (8L), Maya (9J) and Danae (10H), performed their poems with a huge amount of confidence and talent. It really was a wonderful and memorable occasion.

**BBC: SHARE YOUR STORY**

Stories are a powerful way to connect and learn from one another. Through sharing experiences, students can find similarities and differences between their lives and other peoples'.

We were delighted to be invited to take part in the BBC's education project 'Share Your Story' to inspire young people across the nation to realise their ambitions. On Tuesday

29 November, we welcomed award-winning broadcaster, writer, and adventurer Ben Fogle to share his stories with our Year 8 to 11 students.



Ben's stories are motivating and relatable. He told students how he was able to survive in extreme conditions, and how he realised his ambitions of reaching the top of Mount Everest and rowing across the Atlantic. He is a writer and has published nine bestselling books and spoke about his personal journey with dyslexia. He encouraged students to stay curious, work hard to build the skills they need for their ambitions, learn from their setbacks, and be sure to enjoy moments of happiness as they work towards dreams and goals.



Ben's message to students resonates with Drayton Manor's school motto 'Nec Aspera Terrent – Hardships do not deter us'. Representatives from our student leadership team - Abubakr (13.8), Harnoor (13.5), Thaleise (13.8), Frankie (11I), Siham (11G), Eva (8J) and Tristan (8I) joined Ben for a discussion about his travel experiences around the world and motivation as well as his life philosophy.

Students said they were inspired and impressed by Ben's adventurous stories. They asked interesting questions about Ben's adventure and how he had overcome his challenges in studies and in everyday life. We would like to thank Ben and the BBC team for spending time with our students. We look forward to organising more inspiring speaker events for all students next term.



**LEST WE FORGET**



On Friday 11 November at 11am, the school community stopped to observe a two-minute silence and remember those who lost their lives in the Great War and in all armed conflicts since. Adam in Year 10 played The Last Post on the piazza which could be heard across the school as the community observed the silence.

It was also a chance to reflect on those students who attended Drayton Manor who gave up their lives so that we might have our freedom. The student leadership team formed a guard of honour for the Head Boy Abubakr and Head Girl Harnoor who carried wreaths to be laid outside the main hall to commemorate the fallen from Drayton Manor.

**FOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY**



House Captains from Caladrius, Phoenix, Griffin, and Pegasus visited the Ealing Food Bank to deliver food donations collected from students and their families before the half term. This is part of the school's initiative for students to support our local community as a part of our Civic Values. Charlie said he was happy to take part as a student. He also donated to a food bank near home with his family.

At the food bank, students packed more than 400 kilograms of food items into separate trays for the volunteers to categorise in the warehouse. We were delighted to learn that we were able to support six families for about two weeks in the community with the donations from school. Well done to the Drayton Manor community who contributed so generously. Thank you to parent volunteer Mrs Duckworth who helped to deliver the

food and the following students - Charlie (7E), Aisa (7I), Abdelhadi (7K), Oliver (8H) and Sacha (8G) for their help on the day.

**PANTOMIME FOR YEAR 7**

During the penultimate week of term, Year 7 students went to the Lyric theatre in Hammersmith to watch a beautiful pantomime production of Jack and the Beanstalk.

Aarav, Muhammad and Fares (7J) attended the trip. They said they had a wonderful time in the theatre. Everyone enjoyed the audience participation, and clapped, sang and cheered enthusiastically. By the end of the show, everyone was happy but quite tired after all the cheering! Students said it was the best live show they had ever seen.

**YEAR 7 MUSIC CONCERT**



On Wednesday 2 November, we welcomed Year 7 parents to our Hall to watch our annual Year 7 concert. This was an incredibly special event and our performers rose magnificently to the occasion. We were treated to performances from three choirs, solo piano performances, a band and a solo singer. Throughout the rehearsals as well as the event itself, our students demonstrated not only dedication, discipline, and extraordinary musical talent, but also outstanding levels of support and respect for one another. We are enormously proud of them all. The performances on show across the evening from our students promise an exciting future for the Music Department at Drayton Manor.

**CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT**



On Wednesday 30 November, over 300 guests attended our annual Christmas

Concert. It was a joy for everyone to be able to celebrate the musical achievements of our students and enjoy the Christmas spirit. Over 150 students took part in the concert, from the Year 7 choir with their rendition of Last Christmas, to the School Orchestra, now over 30 strong and including students in every year group. The group performed arrangements of The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

One of the highlights of the event was the staff band performing Summertime. Students really enjoyed watching their teachers showcase their expertise, and they found the experience very inspiring. Everyone sang Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer together to mark the end of this wonderful musical evening.

**ROYAL ALBERT HALL TRIP**

On Tuesday 6 December, 90 students across all year groups were rewarded with a trip to the Royal Albert Hall for their musical contributions to the school. The students watched a performance of John Rutter's Christmas Celebration which included an orchestra, choirs, choristers, audience sing-alongs and even a music quiz.

The performances were spectacular, and featured the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Bach Choir, the acapella octet VOCES8 and the Ilford Children's Church Choir. Our students took part in the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's Super quiz. The orchestra played eight musical extracts with a Julie Andrews theme, and the students had to identify the titles.



We were also very lucky to hear the grand organ, the second largest organ in the country, being played during the carols. The trip was an exciting and musically enriching opportunity for the students of Drayton Manor, and a fantastic way to celebrate success within the music department.



**CHRISTMAS LUNCH**



On Wednesday 7 December, the annual Christmas lunch was served to a dining hall full to the brim with festive Draytonians, from Years 7 to 11. Year 12 students volunteered to decorate, take orders and serve the lunch. Almost as soon as the students sat down, they pulled their Christmas crackers, told silly jokes and put the paper crowns on their heads. In the background, classic festive tunes rang around the dining hall. Once everyone was seated, the merry troop of Year 12s began to take orders and serve the Christmas lunch. The plates were filled generously with either turkey, chicken sausages or a vegan tart, with a side serving of roast potatoes, vegetables, and gravy. Afterwards, students had a choice of Christmas pudding and custard or a chocolate brownie. The students had polished off their meals and were tucking into their desserts when...Father Christmas arrived, shouting "Ho Ho Ho!" and gave out chocolates to all the diners! Thank you to all the Year 12 helpers, the catering team and all our diners for making it such a wonderful and memorable day!

**YEAR 13 CHRISTMAS LUNCH**



On Wednesday 14 December, the school hosted its' annual Year 13 special Christmas Lunch for all students. This is an opportunity to thank our Year 13 students for their incredible contribution to the school by

providing a complimentary Christmas lunch. Food was served by our fantastic Year 12 students, as is the tradition, and there was a visit from Santa. A big thank you to all involved.

**EXTENDING WARMTH TO SENIOR CITIZENS**

Following the school's tradition of hosting winter parties for senior citizens in care homes who live locally in our community, 25 House Captains from Year 7 to 13 and staff visited two local care homes with over 90 seniors in Neem Tree Care Centre and Georgian House. Students took gift bags and cards to the residents, which they had spent many hours putting together. They sang Christmas carols and had a great time together.



**CAREERS**

**The Brilliant Club**



40 Year 10 and Year 12 students are attending a four-month programme with The Brilliant Club to prepare for applications to leading universities and colleges. Since the start of November, students have attended five weekly tutorial sessions at the school conducted by PhD tutors in various subjects like literature, psychology, and history. The sessions challenged students' critical thinking skills. On Wednesday 7 November, students visited City, University of London. They toured the campus, attended a taster session in critical thinking, met some current students from the university and asked questions about university applications and student life. After attending the tutorials, students will complete their own project, and meet with

tutors for feedback. Students who complete the programme will receive a certificate. Two pieces of work by students could be featured in the Brilliant Club magazine – a boost to their university applications!

**University of Bath Trip**



Before the mock exams, all Year 11 students visited the University of Bath on Wednesday 16 November and Thursday 24 November, to inspire them to apply to study at our leading universities. Students toured the campus, attended lectures in psychology and maths, and met current students, who were happy to answer questions about university life.

**Oxbridge Preparation for Year 13**

This year, 11 Year 13 students have been invited to attend admission tests and interviews with the University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Schools. To help them achieve their dream, we organised a series of intense preparatory sessions, including mock tests and one-on-one interview tutorials from current students from Oxbridge. Students received personal feedback from their tutors on their test and interviews so that they can improve. They will know the results by end of January. We wish them every success with their applications and their A Level studies.

**Careers Talk and Drop-In**





In addition to trips and bespoke tutorials, we organise careers talks from the King's College London and the Durham University to provide student with latest information about study and careers. The talk by King's College London provided insights for Year 11 and 12 students who are interested in careers in dentistry. Durham University organised a careers talk and drop-in session for Sixth Form students at Drayton Manor. Students learned about the university, the admission criteria, and application process.



**MFL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME**



The school is launching a new exchange programme for students to study at a school in Germany!

On 10 and 11 November, MFL teachers Mrs Hakkinen and Ms Greenwood visited Gymnasium an der Gartenstraße in Mönchengladbach, Germany, as part of Drayton Manor's new exchange partnership with the German school. Gymnasium an der Gartenstraße is a grammar school near Düsseldorf with a focus on ambition in languages and how languages can create global citizens with excellent character. Mrs Hakkinen and Ms Greenwood had the opportunity to observe German and English lessons and meet lots of students and their teachers. They also gave a presentation and answered questions about Drayton Manor. We hope this will be the start of a long and enriching partnership, with German students visiting Drayon Manor in January, and a reciprocal visit to Germany in the works for later this year for Key Stage 4. Students from

Germany and our Drayton Manor students exchanged letters and videos last year, and will take part in a project together, supported by UK-German Connection.

**SPARX MATHS HOMEWORK PLATFORM**

This year has marked the launch of an exciting new homework platform for Maths – 'Sparx'! Sparx uses artificial intelligence to create individual homework for all students. It offers the opportunity for students to challenge themselves as well as gain additional support. On the platform, students can earn XP points, 'Sparx Points,' which has certainly led to some healthy competition among students. We encourage students to work for their best, so we introduced a Sparx Leaderboard. Students who receive the most points in the previous week's Maths homework will be listed on the board. The board has sparked some real excitement within the Maths department.

Well done to these students who have earned the most XP points so far – **Ralph (7F), Iqra (7H), Alicja (8G), Rhihan (8E), Tamara (9E), Muhammad (9L), Zuzanna (10J), Rihanna (10L), Ming Tak (11K) and Francesca (11K)**. The students with the most XP points will be awarded every week with House merits. They will also be nominated for the Spirit of Endeavour or Ethic of Excellence awards in each term.

**SPEAK OUT CHALLENGE**



We recently had the privilege of hosting two sessions with the Speakers Trust organisation that run the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. 60 students from Year 10 had the opportunity to improve their public speaking skills, learning to express themselves and their opinions on a range of topics. Each session ended with students delivering a short speech on a topic that was important to them. The quality of the speeches was outstanding, with a wide range of topics covered. Seven students - **Concienne (10H), Lilly (10G), Esma**

**(10L), Daisy (10L), Oluwakiibati (10F), Sara (10G) and Kiara (10F)** have been chosen to take part in the next phase. They will deliver their speeches to the entire year group in a special assembly.

From there, the standout performer will go on to represent the school at the regional finals. We look forward to their performance.

**BUILDING HS2 TUNNEL**



Year 7 students attended a STEM Day on Thursday 10 November. They learned about the HS2 project, the UK's brand-new high-speed trains running between London and Birmingham. Through the day, students became engineers, learning about building tunnels for trains!

**Kaan (7I)** enjoyed learning how the high-speed train worked and how the structure of tunnels held up additional weight. With the support of an engineer from HS2, he worked with four teammates to create their tunnels out of straws and masking tape. The challenge was to build a tunnel as light as possible that would support the train inside and bear weight on top. They had just 40 minutes to complete the challenge, which took a lot of effort and determination.

At the end, representatives of each group presented their work to the engineer for examination. Each tunnel was weighed (averaging 40 grams) then tested to see if the train could fit through while the weight was on top of it. Kaan found the tunnel building task quite challenging. He was glad to meet students from other tutor groups and it was fun to work on the tunnel challenge with them.

Our Sixth Formers created a STEM HUB Autumn newsletter. [Click](#) for more updates on STEM activities at Drayton Manor.



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH ART COMPETITION**

To celebrate the Black History Month, the Art Department held a competition asking students to create an image in the style of Turner Prize winning black British artist Lubaina Himid. The quality of submissions was extremely high, so choosing a winner proved exceedingly difficult. Congratulations to winner **Zakariya (9J)** for his beautifully painted portraits which showed sensitivity with the use of paint and well-chosen subject matter. Futura's collage piece makes exciting use of text, printed image and paint; each contributing to the overall visual celebration about the world's first black female astronaut, Mae Jemison. Other entries included a wonderful mix of media. Students enjoyed viewing these entries in the Allenby Building corridor. We would like to thank everyone for taking part.



Winning Entry by Zakariya (9J)



Collage piece by Futura (8E)

**LIGHTS AND ..... ACTION!**



Year 7 and 9 students demonstrated some fabulous assessment performances in their drama lessons this term. Year 7 students - **Barnaby (7I)**, **Kaan (7I)** and **Laurence (7F)** performed the poem 'Chocolate Cake' with costumes, props, make-up, and an endless amount of chocolate cakes! Not be outdone, Year 9 students performed some particularly challenging scenes from their chosen play 'Noughts and Crosses', which deals with prejudice and discrimination. All students were extremely respectful with the material and performed them safely. Our star was **Jebishan (9K)** who sacrificed by putting his head into a bowl of water, adding dramatic effect to the performance. All students did incredibly well. We look forward to seeing more acting activities in the next term.

**SPORTS**

Drayton Manor continues to run a wide range of sporting activities for all students. Netball, girls' and boys' football, boys' basketball, and trampoline clubs are held each week for students who represent the school in competitions.

**Boys' Basketball**



The Junior and Senior Boys' basketball clubs have seen remarkably high numbers each week since the start of the season. Year 7 training has been well attended and the work ethic of the players has seen improvements in terms of skill level and game understanding. The teams have shown excellent commitment in training, and both are currently undefeated in their league competitions. Two Girls Basketball teams competed in the Key Stage 4 Girls Basketball Tournament this term after they attended three intensive training sessions by Ms Paine after school. Well done to our A team for winning second place overall.

**Netball**



All netball teams have been training every Tuesday throughout this season. The Year 7 team have been training hard every week and look forward to their first match against Twyford before the term break. The Year 8 team narrowly lost to their opponent in their opening League match of the season, but they hope to bounce back with a win in their second match. The Year 9 team are looking to retain their League title and opened their campaign this season with a 10-5 win. The Year 10 team started strong this season with two straight wins in the League competition against William Perkin and Cardinal Wiseman. They took second place in the Borough Tournament, narrowly losing to the opponent in the final. The Senior team were semi-finalists in the Borough Tournament and are currently undefeated in the League competition. The Netball Club will continue through the Spring Term with League fixtures for all teams including Year 7, 8 and 9 Borough Tournaments.

**Girls' Football**

The club has been well attended throughout this term, with all students training with great energy and a desire to improve. The Under 13 team had an incredible run in the 7-a-side Borough Tournament. They were undefeated throughout the competition and



took home the gold medals. The Under 14 team has had a positive run in the Borough Cup competition, winning their first and second round matches by large margins. They are through to the semi-finals which will be played in January 2023. Their first League match will be played in the new year against Ealing Fields.



The Under 15 team had a dominant performance against their opponent in the first round of the Middlesex Cup. They will face Cardinal Wiseman in the next round. Good luck!

**Boys' Football**

Before the October half term break, 100 students attended Year 7 to 10 training at the Games Field. This was the highest number of attendances in any recent season. Despite a valiant effort, the Year 7 team lost their first Cup match of the season against Elthorne Park in the Borough Cup before the Christmas break. They will have League matches to look forward to in the New Year. All teams have matches in the New Year in both Borough Cup and League competitions. So many students have attended Sixth Form Football Enrichment this year that the school has been able to field 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th XI teams for the second time in recent years.

**Rugby**

For the first time in several years, Drayton Manor has entered rugby teams into competition. The Year 9 boys team took part in tournaments hosted by Grasshoppers RFU and Trailfinders RFU.

**Trampoline**

Trampoline Club is extremely popular this year, with spaces filling up quickly each week. Students have worked on developing isolated skills, which they have incorporated

into routines. Drayton Manor will host the Borough Competition in February 2023, and the team has been working hard to perfect their routines in preparation.

**SEE YOU IN 2023!**

Thank you for your support this Autumn Term. The school will re-open on 4 January. We wish you a wonderful winter break.



**AUTUMN TERM BREAK  
(19 DECEMBER – 3 JANUARY)**

Last day of Autumn term will be on Friday 16 December. Year 7 -11 students will be dismissed at staggered times between 12pm and 12:20pm. Sixth Form students will be dismissed at 11:30am.

School will be closed during the term break. Spring term will start on 4 January 2023.

**PARENTS EVENTS AFTER WINTER BREAK**

Year 11 Virtual Parents Evening  
Thursday 19 January  
4:30-7pm

Year 11 Parents' Day (by invitation only)  
Friday 20 January

Letters for the above events will be shared with parents and carers separately

**SPORTS**

Girls Football Training  
Training will resume in the New Year on Wednesday 4 January 2023 at Astro from 3.30pm to 5.15pm.

Boys Football Training (Year 8-10)  
Training has been cancelled due to daylight saving (it will be darker earlier).

**FIXTURES**

Year 11-13 Girls Netball v Brentside HS  
Wednesday 11 January  
Away

Year 9 Girls Netball v Ellen Wilkinson  
Thursday 12 January  
1:30pm  
Away

Year 7-9 Girls Football v Ealing Fields  
Wednesday 11 January  
2:30pm  
Away

**ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES**

Please find the schedule of activities [here](#) after the winter break.

Please check more Girls Netball and Football Fixtures [here](#) and Boys Football Fixtures [here](#).