



## DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL

### FAREWELL TO YEAR 11 AND YEAR 13

The penultimate week before the half term break is always a poignant one as we bid farewell to our Year 11 and Year 13 cohorts.

The celebrations started in earnest with a final Year 11 Ethic of Excellence ceremony for those students who had demonstrated excellence in either a subject, a one-off piece of work or a contribution to the school community. Not only was this an opportunity for the school to congratulate each student on their achievements but also to find out what their plans were for the next part of their educational career. As has become a Drayton tradition, the students were rewarded with some delicious food and the pizza, cookies and fruit disappeared quickly.



Another highpoint that marked the end of their educational journey was the final year group photograph. Staff had been watching the weather forecast rather nervously as the day had been predicted to be a washout and the photograph had to be taken outside as there is no indoor space available big enough. Thankfully, luck was very much on our side and it

remained dry and we were even more grateful that the date coincided with changes in Government guidelines regarding the wearing of facemasks. It won't be long until the Year 11 and Year 13 group photographs will be adorning the walls of Allenby Building along with others taken from across the last 90 years.

And to their final day. A team of enthusiastic Year 12 students who were keen to give our departing students a truly memorable send-off spent the morning decorating the dining hall with purple and gold banners and balloons and the tables were laden with mouth-watering canapés and a delicious fruit punch that had been prepared by the team at Olive Dining. There was a real sense of joy and relief as the Year 11 leavers entered the Dining Hall which seemed to sum up the feeling that despite Covid they had made it! Students enjoyed chatting to members of staff who had taught them over the years and sharing stories with one another of their favourite memories. As they left the school each student was presented with a goodie bag to wish them the very best of luck for the future before they departed through the Drayton Manor doors, some for the very last time.

The Year 11 Leavers event was shortly followed by the Year 13 Leavers party.



Many had dusted off their old Drayton Manor uniform for the chance to wear it for one last time, and those students who had joined the Sixth Form from other schools enjoyed putting on their old uniforms too.





They too were joined by members of staff as they reminisced about their time at the school and as with the younger year group, were bid farewell by staff as they left the school for the very last time. We look forward to hearing how these students progress and flourish either at university, college or work – who knows, perhaps some will be joining the ranks of our prestigious alumni who have also departed through the Drayton Manor doors. A footballer, film director of BBC journalist perhaps ...?

## SCHOOL EVENTS

### Student Leadership Award

To formally recognise the contribution of School Council, House Captains and Wellbeing Ambassadors, 185 students from across all year groups are working towards a Student Leadership Accreditation. The award acknowledges the development of students as leaders as well as the impact that they have made in the school and wider community. The award is a fantastic opportunity for students to demonstrate the qualities of an excellent leader and build a portfolio of evidence to showcase their leadership skills. All students involved in the award recently took part in a workshop to reflect on examples of their leadership qualities to date as well as identify further opportunities that they would like to develop in preparation for submitting their portfolio of evidence.

### Latin Breakfast

On Wednesday 26 May a number of our Year 10 students celebrated the completion of their Latin GCSE with a special breakfast feast! Mr Foxall and Ms Greenwood's students have studied Latin since Year 7, diligently attending lessons before and after the school day. Their dedication over the last 4 years has been remarkable and now they can enjoy the fruits of their labour! Congratulations to all those involved.



### Junior Maths Challenge

At the end of April, Year 7 and 8 students sat the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge (JMC) 2021. Out of a total 100 students that participated in the challenge, 61 students received an award from the UKMT. If a student achieved a Bronze award they are within the top 40% of participants in the country, Silver award within the top 20% and achieving a Gold award means they are within the top 7%! A fantastic achievement. As a result of their fantastic score in the Junior Maths Challenge a few students have gained automatic access to a national follow-up round. Congratulations go to Rayan (7I), Mikyle (7K), Parisa (7K), Aliya (8I), Leo (8I), Antonina (8J) and Sami (8K) for qualifying for the Junior Kangaroo. A huge thank you to all students that took part and to the Maths Department for helping run the event.

## SIXTH FORM NEWS

### Bake sale

We continue to be very proud of the contributions that our Sixth Form

students make to the school and community. Recently our Year 12 students ran a cake sale for two different charities - Wings of Hope and Young Ealing Foundation.

Wings of Hope is a London-based charity, providing education and support for underprivileged children around the world. The Young Ealing Foundation brings together the public, private and voluntary sectors in Ealing to effect positive change in young people. The event took place in the Dining Hall and a sumptuous array of cakes was on offer including donuts, cakes slices and pastries which raised approximately £150 for the charities. Unfortunately, because of Covid restrictions the sale was restricted to Sixth Formers only but we hope it won't be long until such charity events can be shared right across the school.

Following on from the cake sale some of our Year 12 students hosted an online event in which they shared knowledge about difference cultures and traditions around the world, with the ultimate aim being to spread awareness about the importance of all children having access to free education.

### Academic Writing

Year 12 students recently participated in "The Bridge", an academic writing workshop provided by the Royal Literary Fund (RLF). The Bridge is an initiative, created and delivered by professional writers, that enhances the academic writing skills of Years 12. The session covered dissecting an essay title, creating and developing an argument, and structuring paragraphs and essays.

### Medicine News

Greta Gellar and Baker Lubwama, co-founders of the Medicine Access Project, delivered a virtual talk to our students on how to get into medical school. They gave tips on writing a winning personal statement and how to prepare for UCAT/ BMAT tests. Greta and Baker have their third year medical school exams in a few weeks, but still took the time out from their studies to support our Year 12 aspiring medics during their Medicine and Dentistry Enrichment.

It was great to also hear that all the hard work had paid off for Year 13 student

Rayyan Hamza who has been offered a place at the University of East Anglia to study Medicine in the autumn. We would like to offer her our congratulations and wish her the very best of luck for the future.

**EXTRACURRICULAR IS BACK!**

The PE Faculty is pleased to have been able to start up their extracurricular programme of activities.

Students have been chomping at the bit to be able to compete once again against their peers and take the opportunity to improve their skills in after school activities.

The Year 11 GCSE PE group who had been finishing the practical elements of their course enjoyed some well-earned alternative activities on a Friday before they departed which saw their first efforts at blind football and goal ball. It was a really enjoyable evening that gave them a real insight into the challenges faced by our Paralympians.

We have just completed a series of Inter House Basketball competitions for each year group. All the competitions were well attended and mixed teams were fielded for all Houses in every age group.



The Inter House netball competitions are in progress with the Year 13/12, 11, 7 & 8 events completed with Year 9 and 10 competitions set to take place before half term.

We also organised our first ever Inter House Fitness event where a number of

Year 7 students showed us that they had not been sitting inside playing computer games throughout lockdown!

Inter House events will continue with football and cricket planned for after half term. Year 7 netball club will now run for the rest of the year on a Tuesday and other activities will be offered as restrictions are reduced and once we are able to mix year groups.

**HOUSE NEWS**



It has been an exciting half term for students as we have been able to run a series of sports competitions allowing students to compete in Houses. Together with the points awarded for Attendance and Merits, these results culminate in a tight race for the winner this half term.

The mighty Griffin continue their undefeated streak at the top of the table. We have seen an excellent comeback for Phoenix after an upsetting Easter result and Pegasus have overcome Caladrius for third place.

The final half term will see an increase in after-school House events as well as a House charity project to build on the impressive amount of money raised so far this year for our four local charities.

House Captains will be involved in the development of an end of term House challenge, where students compete in a variety of inter-house activities before Sports Day brings the year to a close.

**Attendance Awards**

On Friday morning tutor groups with the best attendance since Easter will have a special treat brought to their tutor rooms. Congratulations to 7I, 8J, 9I and 10G for their terrific Character and Ambition!

Those students who have had 100% attendance since Easter and no more than one 'late' to school will be entered into a prize draw to win some Amazon vouchers.

**DRAYTONIAN NEWS... WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

Our new 'Where are they now?' feature gives us an opportunity to catch-up with one of our past students to see what they have been up to since they walked out of the Drayton Manor doors for the very last time. Barnaby Fournier left the school in 2019 and this is what he has been up to:

*“ I left Drayton Manor in 2019, having just sat my A Levels. I decided to take a gap year as I wanted to travel before starting university. In November 2019, I took off for Lithuania, Eastern Europe on my own, as a solo-backpacker. I spent a month in Europe, travelling through Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia and Italy. I then took a flight to Thailand and I carried on through to Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia and India. Unfortunately, in March 2020 my travels came to an abrupt end due to the coronavirus pandemic and I had to get a flight home.*

*However, I was very lucky as most of my friends on gap years had not even started their travels yet! I had planned mine since year 9 so had saved up enough to go in November. The five months from November 2019 until March 2020 will remain engraved in my mind forever. I made lifelong friendships, discovered so many new cultures and had the best time of my life. I then spent lockdown back in London at home, getting ready to start my degree, Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) at the University of Manchester. I was anxious that I would have to complete my degree from home. Luckily, first year students were allowed to move into university halls.*

*Despite a very challenging year of completing my degree from my tiny student accommodation room, I have had so much fun, I have made lasting friendships and I still do actually feel like I have had some sort of university first year experience.*

*One of the main things my time at Drayton taught me is perseverance. This helped me during tricky situations during my travels, lost passports, travel*



Barnaby



Sunset at Angkor

*scams and struggling to find routes home when the pandemic hit to name a few... And also for my degree, where being online has essentially meant my cohort are teaching our degree to ourselves, we have had to put more work in than previous years. ”*

We look forward to checking in again on Barnaby in the future.

**NEXT HALF TERM**

As we come to the end of this half term we are delighted to report that next half term we will be re-introducing more sporting competitions including Sports Day! This will run in a slightly different format from previous years with students competing in their year groups at the Games Field for House points.

We will also be holding a Fun Day for each year group, involving various activities to promote teamwork and encourage healthy competition between Houses and Tutor Groups. Historically, we have run Fun Day exclusively with Year 8 but are thrilled to mark the close of this academic year by extending it to everyone to enjoy an afternoon of fresh air, exercise and fun!

**STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS...**

We are very excited to share with you some important news about a new recruit joining the team at the school whose special area of responsibility will be fun! Having recently arrived from the US, this new team member who has a striking resemblance to the Drayton Manor phoenix, will be making appearances at sporting events, fun days and school celebrations to name just a few. However, having arrived with no passport we are unsure what our new recruit is called. After half term we will be seeking the help of our students through tutor group competitions to see if they can come up with a suitable name. We look forward to announcing it to you and the rest of the school in due course.



**AND FINALLY**

Finally, we would like to wish all our students and their families a very restful holiday and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 7 June for the final half term of the academic year at Drayton Manor High School.