



DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL

WEEKLY PARENT & CARER BULLETIN 10 FEBRUARY – 14 FEBRUARY 2025

KEY DATES FOR THE TERM AHEAD

Events	Dates
Oxbridge Online Talk	10/02/2025
UCL Greek Play Trip	12/02/2025
Brilliant Club Scholars Programme	13/02/2025
HALF TERM	17 – 21/ 02/2025

1. PTA SUPPORT

We are pleased to invite all Parents and Carers to our Annual General Meeting that will take place on Friday 28 February from 6.00pm where we will discuss the future of the PTA and take a vote on future committee positions. For any parents that would like to express an interest in supporting the school in some capacity, please can you complete this [form](#) by Friday 14 February. [Please click this link](#) for more information.

2. SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

On Friday 14 February 2025, we are planning on running a second-hand uniform sale. If you would like to donate any items listed below for the sale, please give them to your child in a plastic bag and they can take them to Student Reception at the school. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch using PTA@draytonmanorhighschool.co.uk. We would appreciate any clean and good condition donations from parents of

- Coats
- Blazers
- PE kit
- Ties
- Black polishable leather shoes

3. YEAR 9 CAREERS EMPLOYEE TASTER DAY – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Year 9 Careers Employee Taster Day will be taking place on Wednesday 5 March 2025. As part of this event, we are seeking volunteers to share their career journeys with our students, providing valuable insight into a variety of professions. Volunteers will talk about their career paths, daily responsibilities, and offer advice to students considering similar careers. The event will run throughout the school day, with volunteers speaking to different student groups. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact jgc@draytonmanorhighschool.co.uk. To know more about the wonderful career opportunities available at Drayton Manor, [please click this link](#).

4. REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCE

To report your child's absence or lateness, please use the approved channels, which are the MyEd App or by emailing studentabsence@draytonmanorhighschool.co.uk. Unfortunately, phone calls or voicemails cannot be accepted for reporting absences. Kindly refrain from reporting absences to adminoffice@draytonmanorhighschool.co.uk If you are unfamiliar with the MyEd App, [click here](#) for a guide to help you navigate it. The app includes a messaging feature for easy reporting, and the school will respond if any additional information is required.

5. BUILDING OUR ALUMNI COMMUNITY

As we prepare to celebrate Drayton Manor's 95 Year Anniversary next year, we are excited to expand our alumni network in anticipation of this milestone. We encourage Parents and Carers who are former Draytonians to connect with the school and join in the celebrations. If you or someone you know is interested, please email us at draytonians@draytonmanorhighschool.co.uk. Your support in fostering our alumni community will help make this Anniversary truly memorable. Stay tuned for updates on events and initiatives!

LIBRARY AND CAREERS:

6. UNLOCK YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE AND EXPLORE OUR CAREER RESOURCES

Planning for your child's future is easier with the right tools and guidance. We have curated a list of useful career resources to help students explore pathways, research industries, and make informed decisions about their education and career goals. Empower your child to take the next step by [clicking this link](#).

PASTORAL:

7. FLU CATCH-UP CLINICS – BOOK NOW

Flu vaccination is still available for all eligible students from Year 7 to Year 11, as well as Years 12 to 13. While uptake has been good among older students, vaccination rates for younger children remain low. Flu can be unpleasant and, in some cases, lead to more serious illness, so getting your child vaccinated helps protect them and those around them. Both the nasal spray and injectable (porcine gelatine-free) options are available. If your child has not yet received their flu vaccination, you can book an appointment at a local clinic [using this link](#).

ENRICHMENT, CLUBS AND TEAMS:

8. LONDON YOUTH GAMES – U14 NETBALL TRIALS

Active Ealing is hosting trials for talented netballers in Years 7, 8, and 9, offering the opportunity to represent Ealing in this year's London Youth Games. Trials will take place on Thursday 6 March and Thursday 20 March, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at Elthorne Sports Centre, W7 2AD. Students must be available for match days on Sunday 29 June and Sunday 6 July. To participate, Parents/Carers must complete the London Youth Games Registration Form [here](#) by Sunday 2 March. Successful players will be invited to weekly training sessions starting Thursday 3 April. Please ensure students arrive punctually in sports kit with trainers, warm layers, and a drink. Parents/Carers are responsible for supervision and travel arrangements.

9. FEBRUARY HALF TERM PREMIER CRICKET COACHING

From Monday 17 to Thursday 20 February, Ex-England A and Ealing CC DOC Shaftab Khalid will be running Premier Cricket Coaching sessions at Ada Lovelace School, Park View Road, Ealing (W5 2JX). The sessions are open to all students aged 11 to 14 and provide a great opportunity to develop cricket skills with expert coaching. To book your slot, visit www.ealingcc.co.uk.

10. FREE HANDBALL TRAINING FOR YEARS 7, 8 AND 9

West London Eagles Handball Club is offering a free training session for boys and girls in Years 7, 8, and 9 on Saturday 8 February, from 1.00pm to 3.00pm at Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub (W3 8LQ). This is a great opportunity to try handball and develop new skills. After the session, students can watch a Premier League match between West London Eagles and Islington at 3.30pm, free of charge! To attend, please email westlondoneagles@gmail.com in advance.

11. ENRICHMENT

Students are encouraged to take part in a variety of activities designed to enhance their learning experience. [Our Extra-Curricular Clubs](#) run Monday to Friday, during break times, lunch periods, and after school. From PE clubs to jazz groups, these activities aim to support personal growth, skill development, and provide a well-rounded academic experience for your child. The full schedule of enrichment opportunities for the 2024-25 Academic Year can be found [here](#).

12. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES

How should I report my child's absence or lateness?

You must report your child's absence or lateness using any of the following approved channels

- the MyEd App
- by sending an email to studentabsence@draytonmanorhighschool.co.uk

Can I call the school or send a voicemail instead?

Unfortunately, not. Please use the MyEd App or the student absence email address to ensure your child's absence is properly recorded.

What if I do not know how to use the MyEd App?

If you are unfamiliar with the MyEd App, [click here for a guide](#). The app includes messaging feature that makes it easy to report absences. The school will reply if any additional information is required.

13. TOP TIPS

Today's top tips from the National College focuses on social pressures linked to 'friends' and 'followers.' It addresses a range of potential risks such as fake friends, friend envy and being followed by strangers

The whole concept of social media relies upon users having friends and/or followers. 'Friends' tend to be those with whom users will share their own personal profile. It's usually a mutual relationship with both parties able to engage and interact with everything their friends post online. 'Followers' on the other hand can typically be just one-way relationships and, dependent on the platform, only provide access to certain aspects of an individual's profile, such as a person's content feed. A common trait that often exists between the two however is the desire to gather as many friends or followers as possible.



What parents need to know about SOCIAL PRESSURES LINKED TO 'FRIENDS & FOLLOWERS'



POSSIBLE 'FRIEND ENVY'

Children may compare the number of friends or followers that they have with their own online friends and people they know. In some cases, this could lead to 'friend envy', particularly if they see this as a sign of popularity. This could lead to your child showing signs of jealousy and resorting to sending friend requests to people they don't know that well, or even strangers. In a desperate bid to increase their own status online.



COLLECTING 'FAKE' FRIENDS

Children who feel under pressure to increase their friend count or want to increase their following as quickly as possible can be vulnerable to collecting 'fake' friends. They may, for example, accept friend requests from people they don't know very well or from complete strangers, inadvertently leaving themselves open to online bullies, trolls or even the possibility of being groomed.

OPEN DOOR POLICY

Another way that children can increase their following is by leaving their accounts open so that they can be easily found, and anybody can view their posts. This is in the hope that other users will like their posts and decide to follow them, therefore increasing their numbers. Once again, this can leave your child vulnerable to being followed by strangers or people who have dishonest intentions.

CONSTANT NEED TO PLEASE

As children start to gain more friends or an increasing number of followers, they might start to feel an added level of pressure to provide them with more interesting and likeable content. Almost as if they now have an audience waiting, this constant need to please may be an extra burden that pushes your child into oversharing personal information or posting material that is inappropriate or offensive, inaccurately portraying what they're actually like in the offline world.

FEELINGS OF REJECTION

Just like increasing friends and followers can bring a sense of happiness and satisfaction, so the loss of friends and followers can cause children to suffer feelings of sadness and rejection. Depending on how invested your child is in their social media activities, this could influence their attitude and behaviour offline and potentially have a negative impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

Safety Tips For Parents

BE THEIR FRIEND OR FOLLOWER

The best way to know who your child is friends with online or who follows them is to be their friend or follower yourself. This will allow you to see who your child is engaging with most online or open up discussions about how they know certain people they've added to their network who you haven't heard them speak about before or you yourself don't know.

TURN ON PRIVACY CONTROLS

All social media platforms have their own privacy controls which can be used to help protect children online. For instance, removing the ability for strangers to comment on public posts or having a screening process for friend or follow requests is good practice which can help to ensure your child's experience online is a safer one.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

If privacy measures have been put in place, then usually your child will receive a notification if somebody tries to befriend them online. Talk to your child about making sure they don't open up their personal life to people they don't know and that if they are ever in any doubt, they should never accept a friend request from a stranger.

BEHAVE ONLINE AS THEY WOULD OFFLINE

Your child's behaviour online should always be treated as an extension of their behaviour offline. Discuss with your child the pitfalls of trying to be somebody they're not and that trying to please everybody will only make them unhappy. Tell them that they should be proud of who they are and that they should always behave in an appropriate and responsible way when posting content online.

TALK TO THEM ABOUT THE VALUE OF REAL FRIENDSHIP

Social media can often distort what true relationships and friendships should actually be like. It's important to teach your child the value of true friendships and that meeting and speaking to people face to face in the real world, offline, is often a better way to build a more trusting and confident relationship with someone rather than just speaking to them online.

DISCUSS WHAT BEING POPULAR ACTUALLY IS

A higher number of followers can be a measure of popularity but can also lack substance beyond just the number itself. Discuss with your child that popularity can come and go and that a large number of followers doesn't necessarily mean a large number of friends, particularly online where the real value in a relationship cannot be accurately determined.

Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.

