



DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL

WEEKLY PARENT & CARER BULLETIN
20 JANUARY – 24 JANUARY 2025

KEY DATES FOR THE TERM AHEAD

Events	Dates
Year 11 Mock Results Assembly	20/01/2025
Year 11 Parents Evening (online)	
Jack Petchey Speakers Trust	21/01/2025
Sixth Form Enrichment Change of Option	22/01/2025
Book Swap Competition	
Year 7 Singing Assembly	23/01/2025
Year 8 Singing Assembly	24/01/2025
Year 13 Finance and University Life Talk	
Year 12 Choosing a course & Understanding Degree Apprenticeships Talk	27/01/2025
National Careers Challenge Year 8	28/01/2025
Classical Soloists Evening	29/01/2025
Year 13 Parents evening (online)	
Brilliant Club Scholars Programme	30/01/2025
Alumnus Guest Speaker visit	31/01/2025
Year 7 Singing Assembly	
Year 12 St John's College Cambridge visit	04/02/2025
Year 8 Singing Assembly	05/02/2025
Brilliant Club Scholars Programme	06/02/2025
Oxbridge Online Talk	10/02/2025
My BNK workshops	
Safer Internet Day	11/02/2025
Richmond Upon Thames College Visit	
Young Shakespeare Company	13/02/2025
Brilliant Club Scholars Programme	
Stand up to Bullying Day	14/02/2025
HALF TERM	17 – 21/ 02/2025

1. YEAR 11 PARENTS EVENING

The Year 11 Parents' Evening will be on Tuesday 21 January from 4.30pm to 7.00pm, using the online platform [School Cloud](#). This event provides an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with subject teachers. Appointments are five minutes long and focus on topics covered, areas of strength, and development opportunities. Please book your appointments from Monday 13 January 2025 at 9.00am via School Cloud. For a guide on booking, refer to [this video](#). While we aim to accommodate all requests, if you are unable to book a specific teacher, please email adminoffice@draytonmanorhighschool.co.uk for alternative feedback.

2. CLASSICAL SOLOISTS' NIGHT

Join us for a night of music, as we launch our first Classical Music Competition on Wednesday 29 January at 6.00pm. Aspiring musicians are encouraged to attend, support, and be inspired by their peers. [Tickets are available](#) via the link in the poster at the end of the Bulletin. Please note, students not performing must attend in full school uniform and be accompanied by their Parent or Carer. We look forward to seeing you!

3. 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](#).

4. BUILDING OUR ALUMNI COMMUNITY

As we prepare to celebrate Drayton Manor's 95th 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!

5. COAT DONATIONS FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

We kindly request donations of school coats to support students who may benefit from an extra layer during the winter months. If you have any coats that are no longer needed, please consider donating them. Donations can be dropped off at Main Reception or Student Reception. Your generosity will help ensure that all students stay warm and comfortable this season. Thank you for your kindness and support.

6. PE KITS

We kindly ask parents and carers to avoid delivering PE kits during school hours. This helps minimise disruptions to the school day and encourages students to take responsibility for bringing their required items. To assist with planning, you can view your child's PE schedule by [clicking here](#). Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in supporting a smooth and organised school day.

7. STAY CONNECTED WITH OUR SCHOOL BLOG

Our blog is your hub for all things happening at Drayton Manor. Packed with updates on student achievements, and events. It is designed to keep you informed and inspired. From exciting news to insightful educational resources, our blog offers something for everyone.

[Click here](#) to explore the blog and bookmark the page to stay updated. We are excited to share our journey with you and strengthen our school community through this vibrant platform.

LIBRARY AND CAREERS:

8. GET INVOLVED AND INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

We are inviting parents, carers, and employers to play an active role in [our Careers Programme](#) and help shape the future of our students. Whether you're a professional willing to deliver an assembly, host a small group talk, or join a Q&A session, or an employer interested in collaborating with us, your contribution can make a real difference. Please contact us at adminoffice@draytonmanorhighschool.co.uk if interested.

9. NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

The library's newly specialised reading space, the Aspire Zone, is well under way! We have added brand new books for student use to target reading for pleasure. Each book added to the space comes from the [brand-new reading lists](#) which staff from the library and English departments have created as a resource to guide reading throughout every year of their studies. Coming soon, we will have reading lists from every other department in the school to encourage a wider breadth of reading for our students. Additionally, the library has also added the use of audiobooks and eBooks which can be found at [this link](#) and can be accessed from home. Students can now access library resources from anywhere and can read or listen to them on a phone, laptop, or tablet.

ENRICHMENT, CLUBS AND TEAMS:

11. HALF-TERM RUGBY CAMP FOR GIRLS

We are thrilled to invite students to an exciting Half-Term Rugby Camp on Monday 19 February from 10.00am – 3.00pm at Trailfinders Sports Ground, Ealing. This session will be Led by professional players from the Trailfinders Women’s Rugby Team, this camp is perfect for all skill levels, offering expert coaching, fun drills, team-building activities, and a confidence-boosting experience. For more information and to register, visit the Ealing Trailfinders Foundation Camps Page. In case of any queries, please email adminoffice@draytonmanorhighschool.co.uk, for the attention of Mr Bowman.

12. 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: WINTER COATS AND JUMPERS

What type of coat is allowed as part of the uniform?

Students are required to wear [plain black or navy blue coats](#) without any logos. Kindly note that we do not encourage parents to purchase expensive coats—affordable options can be found at popular retail stores and supermarkets.

What colour jumper should my child wear with their blazer?

Students must wear a navy-blue jumper with their blazer. Please note that the PE jumper is not to be worn with the full school uniform. You can view the full uniform list by clicking [this link](#). For more details, please visit our [website here](#).

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.





DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL
PRESENTS



CLASSICAL SOLOISTS NIGHT



JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY, 29 JANUARY 2025,
AT 6:00PM (DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM)
FOR AN ENCHANTING EVENING OF CLASSICAL
MUSIC PERFORMED BY TALENTED SOLOISTS.

*TICKETS FROM £4, AND ALL PROCEEDS WILL
SUPPORT WITH UPGRADES TO THE SOUND AND
LIGHTING IN THE MAIN HALL

[CLICK HERE](#) TO BOOK YOUR TICKET!

*WE BELIEVE THAT FINANCES SHOULD NOT BE A BARRIER TO
ATTENDANCE. IF YOU REQUIRE SUPPORT WITH TICKETS,
PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT MR. MOFFET DIRECTLY
AT TJM@DRAYTONMANORHIGHSCHOOL.CO.UK, AND WE WILL BE
HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU.