



## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of a truly remarkable term, I am filled with immense pride as I reflect on the many achievements of our students. This term has been one of outstanding progress, marked by a wealth of opportunities that have allowed our students to showcase their talent, ambition, and dedication. From engaging in key careers events that have provided invaluable insights into the world of work, to taking part in enriching trips that have broadened their horizons, it has been a term full of memorable experiences. Our students have also had the privilege of hearing from inspiring speakers who have challenged them to think differently and set their sights even higher.

The musical and sporting events have been highlights, with our musicians captivating audiences and our athletes displaying exceptional skill and determination. These achievements are a testament not only to the talent within our school, but also to the strong sense of teamwork and commitment that defines our Drayton Manor community.

Our students continue to excel both inside and outside the classroom, showing resilience, hard work, and a genuine enthusiasm for learning. We celebrate their successes in this newsletter and are incredibly proud of everything they have accomplished.

Looking ahead to the new year, I am excited for the opportunities and challenges that await us. I am confident that our students will continue to thrive and reach even greater heights. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all Parents and Carers for your continued support. Your dedication plays an integral part in the success of our school, and for that, we are truly grateful.

I wish you all a restful and joyful holiday, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in January for another term filled with growth and achievement.

Best wishes,  
Mrs L Mills

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### AWARDS EVENING 2024 - CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS

By Year 7 Student Reporter Martina



On Wednesday 13 November, Drayton Manor High School celebrated its incredible students at the highly anticipated Awards Evening. Proud parents and students arrived in style, walking the purple carpet while our enthusiastic press team captured their excitement. The event featured stunning musical performances, including Kate Lai's mesmerizing Paganini's Caprice #15 and the Year 9 Rock Band's rendition of Duvet. Guest speaker Dr Janet Bolaji, an inspiring alumnus, shared her journey of resilience and community. From subject awards to surprise accolades, the night honoured student excellence and our values of ambition and character. It was an unforgettable evening of joy and achievement!

### HOUSE CAPTAINS SHINE AT THE AWARDS EVENING



Our incredible House Captains played a vital role in making this year's Awards Evening a memorable success! From serving entrees with a smile to offering warm hospitality, they went above and beyond to ensure every guest felt welcome. Their charm and professionalism were on full display as they

engaged with parents, helping create a lively and inviting atmosphere. Whether it was guiding attendees or assisting with the flow of the evening, the House Captains truly demonstrated their leadership skills and made a lasting impression on all. A huge thank you to our student leaders for their outstanding support!

### YEAR 11 STUDENT SHINES AT NEHRU CENTRE ART EXHIBITION



Drayton Manor's talented Year 11 art student Ellis proudly showcased his incredible personal drawings at the prestigious Nehru Centre as part of the Art Through Our Eyes exhibition. Curated by art historian Sumesh Sharma, the exhibition celebrates creativity and the resilience of the human spirit. Ellis's work received high praise, and he was thrilled to sell all his pieces on the opening night—a remarkable achievement for a young artist. This milestone highlights the immense potential of Drayton Manor's students and serves as an inspiration to aspiring artists within our school community.

### FESTIVE CREATIVITY SHINES: CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION WINNERS

We are thrilled to announce the winners of our Christmas Card Competition and the winner of the Ealing Christmas Card Competition! Congratulations to Bianca from 8F, whose stunning design of St. Mary's Church in Hanwell was selected as the best card, among hundreds of entries from across





the Borough. A huge well done to Jasmin from 9K and Oishikha from 9I as well, who worked together to create a beautiful collaborative Christmas scene that perfectly captured what they love most about the holiday season. Both designs were crafted during Art Club, showcasing the incredible talent and creativity of our students. The awards were presented by Counsellor Peter Mason, Leader of Ealing Council, Hitaishi Vaghela, VIP Events and Special Projects Lead to the Leader of the Council, and Sophia Brown, Communications and Campaigns Officer. A big thank you to all students who participated, and to the Art Club for their continued inspiration and creativity. Please click here to view a virtual gallery of the entries.



**DRAYFAIR DELIGHTS - A CELEBRATION OF CLUBS, CREATIVITY, AND COMMUNITY!**  
By Year 8 student reporter Daisy



The first-ever DrayFair, our exciting extracurricular fair for Year 7 to Year 10 students, was an absolute success! The event was buzzing with energy as students eagerly promoted their clubs, signed up new members, and collected stamps on their enrichment passports. From Sports to Arts, Tech to Drama, the fair highlighted the diverse and vibrant opportunities available at Drayton Manor, encouraging students to explore new passions and make lasting connections. It was a fantastic showcase of school spirit and involvement, and we can't wait to see these clubs grow and thrive in the coming months.



**DRAYTON MANOR CHRISTMAS CONCERT: A NIGHT OF MUSICAL MAGIC**  
By Year 7 Student Reporter Bhavkeerat



This year's Christmas Concert was a truly spectacular celebration of our students' musical talents, with over 250 attendees enjoying a magical evening of performances. The concert featured 35 diverse acts, highlighting the incredible skill and dedication of 140 students from Years 7 to 13. From string quartets and rock bands to solo performances and instrumental pieces, the concert offered something for every musical taste, with music ranging from festive Christmas carols to classic hits by Adele and Sia. We were especially proud of the students who showed immense courage, ambition, and resilience by performing in front of such a large audience. Their dedication was evident in the beautiful music they produced, with the school orchestra standing out as a shining example of teamwork and community spirit. Students from all year groups, at every level of experience, came together to create truly moving performances. The upbeat songs had the audience clapping and singing along, and the event culminated in a grand finale with a festive sing-along as students and the audience joyfully sang "Rocking Around the Christmas Tree".



**YEAR 7 STUDENTS EMBARK ON A MAGICAL ADVENTURE WITH ROBIN HOOD**

On Thursday, 28 November, and Friday, 29 November, our Year 7 students were whisked away on an exhilarating journey through Sherwood Forest as they attended a lively Robin Hood pantomime, brought to life by the talented performers of Hounslow Arts Centre. The show was a delightful mix of humour, action, and audience interaction,

with students enthusiastically cheering, laughing, and even joining in the fun. Their energy and participation truly made them a fantastic audience, adding to the magic of the performance. As a special treat, two students who demonstrated outstanding engagement during the show will receive goodie bags, generously provided by Hounslow Arts Centre, in the upcoming assembly.

**FESTIVE FUN AT THE STUDENT CHRISTMAS LUNCH**



The spirit of the season was alive and well at our annual Student Christmas Lunch, held on Wednesday, 11 December, for students in Years 7 to 10. The dining hall was transformed into a hub of festive cheer as students came together to enjoy a traditional Christmas meal. The menu featured something for everyone, with halal and vegetarian options alongside classic festive dishes and a delicious pudding to top it all off. The joyful atmosphere was further enhanced by festive music, colourful crackers, and a special visit from Father Christmas himself, spreading smiles and seasonal goodwill. The event was a resounding success, with laughter and celebration filling the air. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who helped make the lunch such a memorable occasion for our students.

**SPREADING HOLIDAY JOY - STUDENTS BRING CHEER TO ST DAVID'S CARE HOME**

On 13 December 2024, the Year 8 and 9 students brought festive cheer to the residents of St David's Care Home. The visit was filled with heartwarming moments as the students performed joy-filled Christmas songs, including a stunning solo violin performance that captivated everyone. Between songs, the students took time to hand out Christmas cards and engage in lively conversations with the residents, spreading holiday warmth and kindness. This meaningful visit showcased the students' outstanding



civic virtue, as they generously gave their time and shared their talents to brighten the day for members of the local community. Well done to all involved for embodying the true spirit of the season!



## A HEARTWARMING RETURN – MR GRANT VISITS DRAYTON MANOR



On November 22, we had the privilege of welcoming Mr Grant, a teacher at Drayton Manor for an impressive 34 years, back to the school. What began as a brief visit turned into a meaningful and nostalgic afternoon of tea, conversation, and shared memories. It was especially touching when an old student and current member of staff, who had received Mr Grant's help 45 years ago, stopped by to thank him personally. The visit was a wonderful chance to reflect on the school's journey, with old photos sparking fond memories. Mr Grant was also presented with a Draytonian Award, the perfect end to a truly special day. He was taken on a tour around the school, unlocking doors to showcase the many developments over the years. This visit was a reminder of the incredible legacy

of Drayton Manor. We are delighted that he felt so welcomed and look forward to the possibility of hearing more from him during our upcoming 95th anniversary celebrations.

## CAREER TALK ABOUT DIGITAL SKILLS WITH BARONESS JONES: FROM ONE LEADER TO MANY OTHERS By Year 7 Student Reporter Martina



After much anticipation, we were honoured to welcome Baroness Maggie Jones of Whitchurch to Drayton Manor High School. On 26 November, she delivered an inspiring talk to our Year 11 students, Sixth Formers, and student leaders. Her talk was followed by an engaging Q&A session, where she shared her career experience and offered valuable advice to our aspiring leaders. Baroness Jones engaged the audience with stories from her career, her insights into the digital world, and important messages for the "young leaders" in the room. Baroness Jones emphasised how digital skills are at our fingertips, and that the tech industry offers considerable opportunities. She also challenged the misconception that tech jobs are only for "techie" people, reminding the audience that anyone, regardless of their background, can be involved in technology.

## EMPOWERING LEADERSHIP - SSAT COACHING AND PEER MENTOR TRAINING



This term, selected students from Year 7 to Year 13 had the chance to develop their leadership and mentoring skills through the

SSAT Coaching and Peer Mentor Training sessions. Aimed at building confidence and enhancing communication, these sessions provided students with the tools to support their peers effectively. Through interactive workshops, participants learned valuable strategies for coaching, mentoring, and problem-solving, all while fostering a sense of responsibility and teamwork. The training was an empowering experience, equipping our students with the skills to make a positive impact on their school community as they take on their new roles with confidence and enthusiasm.

## YEAR 12 EXPLORES THE FUTURE OF GAMING AT THE COLLEGE OF ESPORTS



Year 12 students had an exciting opportunity to visit The College of Esports in Stratford, East London—a groundbreaking university-level institution dedicated to the innovative world of gaming and Esports. During the visit, students explored the campus, discovering a range of courses on offer, including Business Studies, Gaming, and Digital Media. They were impressed by the state-of-the-art facilities and gained valuable insights by speaking with student ambassadors and lecturers about life at the college. The experience left many inspired about the potential for future careers in this dynamic and rapidly growing industry.

## YEAR 12 DISCOVER PATHWAYS TO MEDICINE WITH ST GEORGE'S UNIVERSITY



As part of our Careers and Futures programme, Year 12 students had the





privilege of engaging with a representative from St George's University London to explore the exciting world of studying Medicine. The session provided an in-depth look at what it's like to pursue a Medicine degree, with a detailed breakdown of the course structure, year-by-year expectations, and the range of career opportunities available post-graduation. Students also gained valuable insights into the application process, including tips on the UCAT exam and admissions procedures. The session highlighted the essential qualities and values required for success in the field, leaving students inspired and better prepared for a potential career in Medicine.

### **BUILDING FUTURES - YEAR 12 STUDENTS GAIN FINANCIAL CONFIDENCE WITH JUPITER**

A select group of Year 12 students participated in an enriching Financial Confidence Workshop hosted by Jupiter, at their offices in Victoria. This initiative aimed to empower students with vital financial literacy skills, boosting their confidence and ability to manage personal finances. During the workshop, students engaged with professionals across various departments, offering them a unique glimpse into the corporate world and the chance to expand their professional networks. Key topics included managing income, understanding debt, and exploring savings and investments, all designed to enhance financial awareness. Beyond financial skills, the session also focused on employability, sharpening abilities such as networking and effective communication. This transformative experience left students better equipped for both personal and professional success.

### **DRAYTON MANOR SHINES AT THE WICKES WELLBEING CHALLENGE FINALS**

After impressing staff and peers with their innovative ideas for a community space during The Wickes Challenge, a team of our Year 9 students earned a spot in the prestigious Wickes Challenge Finals held in Watford. Competing against 15 schools from across the country, our team presented their vision to a panel of judges, showcasing not only their creativity but also their exceptional teamwork and presentation skills. The experience was a valuable opportunity for personal growth, boosting the students' confidence as they faced the challenge head-on. The team left the event feeling elevated and proud of their achievements, representing Drayton Manor with pride and enthusiasm.

### **BRILLIANT CLUB SCHOLARS: A STEP TOWARDS UNIVERSITY DREAMS**

This term, a group of Year 10 students embarked on an exciting academic journey with the Brilliant Club Scholars Programme. Designed to provide a taste of university learning, the programme aimed to empower students with the knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions about their futures. As part of the Scholars Programme, students engaged in small group tutorials led by a PhD tutor, delving into topics rooted in cutting-edge research. This enriching experience not only broadened their academic horizons but also offered valuable insights into university-style education. Well done to all participants for embracing this unique opportunity!

### **APPLAUDING ACHIEVEMENT: JACK PETCHEY AWARD WINNERS**

We are proud to announce the winners of the Jack Petchey Achievement Award for the Autumn term:

- Begum (12.3)
- Mahmoud (13.4)
- Megan (8L)

These exceptional students were nominated by their peers for their remarkable achievements, which include personal triumphs, stepping outside their comfort zones, and demonstrating outstanding teamwork. As recipients of this prestigious award, each student will receive a grant to benefit their peers and the school community. They will have the opportunity to decide how this grant is spent, leaving a positive and lasting impact.

### **EMPOWERING VOICES: YEAR 10 SPEAK OUT CHALLENGE**



In collaboration with the Jack Petchey Foundation, our Year 10 students took part in the inspiring Speak Out Challenge. The day featured interactive workshops designed to help students craft and deliver compelling

speeches on topics close to their hearts. Through engaging activities, participants honed their public speaking and listening skills, gaining confidence and valuable techniques along the way. The day culminated in a session where students presented their speeches to peers, showcasing their creativity and eloquence. A select few will move forward to share their speeches with the entire cohort next term. Well done to all who participated in this transformative experience.

### **A TALE OF TWO SCHOOLS - GERMAN EXCHANGE STUDENTS VISIT DRAYTON MANOR**



Excitement was in the air at Drayton Manor as the MFL department launched an exciting new partnership with the Gymnasium an der Gartenstraße in Germany, promising a future trip to Berlin for our German GCSE students. The exchange began with a visit from the GymGa students, who journeyed all the way from western Germany to our school. After a warm Drayton Manor welcome, the students embarked on a tour of our campus, marveling at our sprawling grounds and unique facilities. They also engaged in lively discussions about education systems, debating everything from school uniforms to academic policies. The exchange was a fantastic cultural experience, filled with laughter, language practice, and new friendships. We look forward to returning the hospitality when we visit Germany in the coming months.

### **EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS- PEER MENTORING TRAINING**



Selected students had the opportunity to take part in an exciting initiative aimed at enhancing their leadership skills through Peer Mentoring Training. The training helped them develop essential skills in mentoring, communication, and leadership, preparing





them to support and guide their peers. After attending tutor time as usual, the students made their way to engage in an interactive and enriching session. This initiative was part of our ongoing efforts to cultivate a culture of leadership and support within our school community.

**AS IF BY MAGIC – AN EXCITING CHEMISTRY SHOWCASE WITH DR. SZYDLO**



On 14 November, Dr. Szydlo, a world-renowned chemist, visited Drayton Manor to share the wonders of Chemistry with our students. The Year 7 and Year 11 students were captivated by an exciting and interactive demonstration, followed by Year 11. The show lasted for an hour and allowed students to explore the fascinating world of Chemistry through engaging experiments and explanations. The event provided a unique opportunity for students to see the practical applications of science and inspire their curiosity. Further details were sent to staff members involved to ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience for all.

**ASTROPHYSICS COMES TO LIFE: PROFESSOR CLAUDIA DE RHAM VISITS DRAYTON MANOR**



As part of our STEM Week celebrations, Drayton Manor High School had the privilege of welcoming Professor Claudia de Rham, a distinguished theoretical physicist and astrophysicist, on 19 November. Professor de Rham captivated Year 7 and Year 9 students with an inspiring talk that illuminated the wonders of the universe and the intricacies of her groundbreaking research. Her visit offered

students a unique opportunity to delve into the fascinating realms of astrophysics and theoretical science, igniting their curiosity and passion for STEM subjects. The event was undoubtedly a highlight of STEM Week, leaving students energised and eager to further explore the mysteries of science and space. A special mention goes to our exceptional Sixth Formers, Majd and Kieran, who demonstrated remarkable initiative by organising this enriching event, including personally reaching out to Professor de Rham to secure her attendance. Thank you, Majd and Kieran, for making this rewarding experience possible!

**FROM HAMLET TO HANWELL - THE GLOBE PLAYERS WOW STUDENTS**  
By Year 8 student reporter Daisy



On 29 November, Year 10 and 11 GCSE English students were treated to an extraordinary performance by The Globe Players. The actors staged two brilliant performances—Macbeth and An Inspector Calls—that left students captivated. Throughout the performances, the actors skilfully explained key techniques and plot points, stopping occasionally to ensure students fully understood the story. The actors seamlessly changed costumes and characters, providing a dynamic and engaging experience. With short intervals to recap the plot, the students were able to grasp the twists and turns of the plays. At the end of each performance, the students showed their appreciation with a huge round of applause, recognizing the talent and dedication of the four actors.

**CREATIVE COLLABORATION - DRAYTON ARTISTS DRAW INSPIRATION FROM NATURE**

A range of students from Years 8 to 13 recently had the unique opportunity to collaborate with renowned ceramicist Charlotte Moore, drawing inspiration from the local natural landscape. Together, they crafted stunning monochromatic drawings that beautifully captured the essence of their surroundings. These expansive artworks will serve as the foundation for a permanent installation on the Sixth Form building,

showcasing the creativity and talent of our Drayton Manor artists for years to come. This project not only sparked artistic innovation but also highlighted the power of teamwork and the connection between art and nature.



**A DAY OF CULTURE AND CONVERSATION - FRENCH BLACK HISTORY MONTH WORKSHOP**



On 22 October, our Sixth Form French students had the exciting opportunity to attend a workshop at the French Institute in South Kensington, where they immersed themselves in the French language and culture. The focus of the day was the documentary-style film *Tout Simplement Noir*, a poignant look at the story of a man who organised a march against racism. The students watched the film in French, strengthening their listening skills while picking up on cultural nuances and slang. They also enjoyed a delicious lunch at Paul's, a local French café, further embracing French culture. The trip was a fantastic opportunity for students to engage with French speakers outside of the classroom, boosting their confidence and leaving them with unforgettable memories!





**YEAR 7 MUSIC CELEBRATION BREAKFAST  
- A MORNING OF TALENT AND TRIUMPH**



The Year 7 Music Celebration Breakfast was a wonderful way to start the day, filled with energy and excitement as students showcased their musical talents. With teachers and students gathered, the event celebrated the incredible progress and achievements of our young musicians. From performances to heartfelt speeches, the morning highlighted the hard work and dedication of our Year 7 students, who are quickly making their mark in the world of music. It was a delightful event, full of smiles, encouragement, and a shared love of music—setting the tone for a successful year ahead!

**HONOURING THE FALLEN - DRAYTON  
MANOR'S REMEMBRANCE DAY TRIBUTE**  
By Year 7 Student Reporter Martina



On the morning of November 11, Drayton Manor High School came together to mark Remembrance Day with a solemn two-minute silence at 11 - 00am. The silence was poignantly accompanied by a moving trumpet performance of The Last March by Year 9 student Charlie, leaving a lasting impression on all who listened. Afterward, a procession led by the Head Boy and Head Girl placed poppy wreaths at the memorial for fallen Draytonians, followed by a heartfelt reading of 'In Flanders Fields'. Please click [here](#) to view the video.



**EALING TEEN READ - INSPIRING A LOVE  
FOR BOOKS**



This year, the library proudly selected nineteen enthusiastic students from Years 8 and 9 to participate in the annual Ealing Teen Read, hosted by the Hounslow School Library Service. Designed to spark excitement about reading and promote reading for pleasure, this program brings students together to celebrate literature. The launch event, held on 14 November 2024, featured a special visit from award-winning author Anthony McGowan. Students enjoyed a captivating talk about his writing process, followed by a lively Q&A session. They were also introduced to six compelling books vying for the prestigious Ealing Teen Read Award. The day concluded with a book signing where students had the chance to chat with Mr McGowan personally. They left inspired and eagerly anticipating the Teen Read Final in March!

**YEAR 7 STUDENTS ENJOY A MUSICAL  
DAY AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL**

On December 5, the Music Department treated 7F and 7H, the winners of the Year 7 Inter-Tutor Singing Competition, to an unforgettable evening of festive cheer at the iconic Royal Albert Hall. The students

attended the John Rutter Christmas Celebration, where they had the joy of singing along to classic Christmas carols, creating a truly magical atmosphere. In addition to the sing-alongs, they were enthralled by magnificent performances from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and an array of outstanding choirs. This festive outing was not only a reward for their hard work and talent but also a wonderful way to immerse in the spirit of the season. Well done, 7J and 7H.



**A WEEK OF GROWTH AND DISCOVERY AT  
JAMIE'S FARM**

This term, nine Year 8 and 9 students embarked on a transformative five-day residential trip to Jamie's Farm in Bath. Tech-free and immersed in the countryside, students embraced farm life, which included feeding farm animals, cooking meals, and hiking through scenic trails. Teamwork shone as students prepared delicious dishes, from wood-fired pizzas to katsu-coated chicken, while resilience and laughter defined challenging hikes, including joyful leaps into the "Chocolate Lake." The week offered moments of reflection, self-discovery, and growth, with students developing confidence, concentration, and a newfound appreciation for cooking and hard work. They returned inspired, resilient, and brimming with memories of an unforgettable adventure.







**YEAR 9 STUDENTS EXPLORE OPERA WITH THE MOZARTISTS**



On Monday, 18 November, we were delighted to host two workshop leaders from the Mozartists, who conducted a final session with 30 Year 9 students. This marked the culmination of an engaging project centered on Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. The workshop began with students reflecting on the opera, which they had attended at Cadogan Hall, delving into its social and cultural themes. They shared thoughtful perspectives on the characters' motivations and actions, sparking lively discussions. Building on these insights, students composed their own musical response to the opera, crafting the song "Why Say Yes", which challenged the tidy resolution presented at the opera's conclusion. The project was a resounding success, leaving students with a deeper appreciation for opera and its relevance to storytelling and societal reflection.

**YEAR 11 GET IN ON THE ACTION AT GUYS AND DOLLS**



On 28 November, the Year 11 students enjoyed a remarkable trip to the Bridge Theatre to experience the immersive magic of *Guys and Dolls*. This unique opportunity allowed students to participate in the action, breaking traditional theatre boundaries and bringing them closer to the performers. The set design was breathtaking, with students moving freely among the scenes, gaining a firsthand look at the intricacies of staging and the dynamic interaction between actors and audience. Observing the use of space and

narrative flow up close provided invaluable insights into the art of live performance. The highlight of the night came when three of our students were invited onto the stage to dance with the cast, creating an unforgettable moment that showcased the joy and interactivity of immersive theatre. The trip was not only a fun experience but also an educational one, inspiring creativity and curiosity about new theatrical techniques. It offered a profound appreciation for the collaboration and artistry involved in live theatre, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.



**DRAYTON MANOR FOOTBALL PROGRAMME KICKS OFF THIS TERM**



This term, we launched our new U18 Football Programme, providing students with the exciting opportunity to compete against some of the top private schools in the area. The season has already showcased some exceptional football matches, with standout performances from our players. Our players' inspiring determination and rousing speech on the journey home highlighted the essence of being a Drayton Manor student, that is, applying yourself wholeheartedly, no matter the odds. Having seized this opportunity, our students' achievement will forever be remembered.

**DRAYTON MANOR U18 FOOTBALLERS RISE TO THE CHALLENGE IN 24/25 CAMPAIGN AGAINST INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

Drayton Manor's U18 footballers have kicked off their 24/25 campaign with a series of exciting fixtures against some of the top

footballing schools in the country. For many of the players, matches against prestigious independent schools such as Charterhouse and Hampton School have been a chance to challenge themselves against teams that regularly compete in national competitions and at the highest level of school football. These games mark the culmination of seven years of dedication to extra-curricular sport for some players, while for others, they offer their first taste of competitive school sport and the opportunity to represent Drayton Manor outside the classroom. As a result, we are incredibly proud of the ambition, character, and sportsmanship displayed by all three of our U18 squads.



**DRAYTON MANOR BASKETBALL TEAMS DISPLAY GRIT AND TALENT IN RECENT MATCHES**



Drayton Manor's basketball teams have been showcasing their talent and determination in recent fixtures. The Year 9 girls faced tough competition in their games, however, despite the results, the team's resilience and teamwork were evident throughout both matches. Meanwhile, the Year 11 girls played in the Senior Tournament, where they demonstrated excellent skills and sportsmanship. They secured three wins, two losses, and one draw, finishing just outside the top three in a commendable fourth place overall. The students' commitment to the game and determination to represent Drayton Manor with pride were truly impressive. We are excited to see their continued development and success in future competitions!





**CELEBRATING 94 YEARS: YEAR 7 AND 8 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS HOUSE SPIRIT**

By Year 12 student Eshaal



In honour of Drayton Manor's 94th anniversary, Year 12 house captains, alongside the P.E. coaches, organized an exciting basketball tournament for our Year 7 and Year 8 students. The tournament saw fierce competition between the four house groups, with each competing in two teams. The combined results for both year groups were as follows:

- First place – Griffin
- Second place - Phoenix and Pegasus (tied)
- Third place - Caladrius

Griffin emerged victorious, earning 94 merit points to mark the occasion. The event was a fantastic success, fostering teamwork and house spirit while providing a fun and energetic experience for students and staff alike.

**RUNNING TO VICTORY: EALING CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS**



Drayton Manor delivered a stellar performance at the Ealing Cross Country competition, finishing in Third place overall during the event. Year 8 student Mikal, secured Third place in The Junior Boys' Race, earning a well-deserved Bronze Medal. Congratulations to all the students who represented the school brilliantly. Following their Wilkinson Sword successes in the summer, Drayton Manor's athletics squad started their 24/25 season in style earning 4 individual medals (1x Gold, 1x Silver, 2x Bronze) at the Ealing Cross Country League. In addition, to the success on the day, 7 students were also selected to represent Ealing in the Middlesex Leagues. However,

the defining achievement was the overall team performance that had been weeks and months, if not years, in the making. With the performance of every squad member contributing towards team medals at the competition, a special commendation should be made to all the runners, in particular team captain Mabel who undertook the role of recruiting Drayton Manor students for the team. Specifically, Mabel's work, prior to the event and on the day, ensured every member of the squad was committed to showing not only individual ambition for their own race position, but the character and civic virtue to run for personal best times to accumulate team points. As a result, the entire squad can be proud of a truly collective effort that culminated in team bronze medal!

**SLAM DUNK SUCCESS: BOYS' BASKETBALL TRIUMPH**

The Year 7 and 8 boys' basketball team kicked off their season with an impressive 30-point victory over William Perkin in a home game. Their success is a testament to the team's hard work and dedication, with nearly 50 students regularly attending training sessions. Congratulations to the team on this fantastic achievement, and we look forward to even more wins in the New Year.

**RECORD NUMBERS WITH YEAR 7 & 8 BOYS' FOOTBALL TEAM**

The Boys' football team has had a phenomenal start to the year with record-breaking attendance at training—nearly 100 students have taken part so far. The Year 8 team narrowly missed out against a strong William Perkin side, while Year 7 celebrated a hard-fought victory against Greenford, pushing them into the third round of the Ealing Cup. A huge thank you to Mr. Bowman for his commitment and coaching. Good luck to all our teams as they continue their league and cup journeys in 2025.

**GOAL RUSH - U14 GIRLS' FOOTBALL SHINE**

It's been an exciting term for girls' football! The U12 team put up a determined effort in their game against Greenford, while the U14 team secured a spectacular 9-1 victory against Villiers. The team's hard work and teamwork were on full display. A huge congratulations to the players and a big thank you to Ms. Williams for guiding the team to success.

**RISING STARS: AZAL AND KAYI SHINE IN BASKETBALL**

Our Year 8 players, Azal and Kayi, stepped up to play for the Year 10 basketball team in a competitive game against William Perkins. Their impressive contributions saw them stand out as some of the most valuable players on the court. Their hard work and skill are truly commendable, and we are excited to see what they achieve in future matches!

**MONCASTER CUP JOURNEY: U16 1ST XI FOOTBALL TEAM**

The U16 1st XI football team delivered a strong performance in the Moncaster Cup, reaching the third round—one of only 8 schools to progress this far in the Middlesex competition. Along the way, they defeated The Green School and Brentside High School, showcasing teamwork and determination. A huge well done to the Year 10 students who played pivotal roles, including Kevin, Marzio, Oskar, Idrys, Adil, Kesharn, Isiah, and Leo. Your hard work and leadership were invaluable.

**SENIOR BOYS' BASKETBALL: A DOMINATING VICTORY**

The Senior Boys' Basketball Team opened this season with an emphatic win, defeating Ada Lovelace by over 50 points. The team's skill, teamwork, and preparation were on full display, setting a strong standard for the year ahead. Congratulations to the team and to Mr. Black for this impressive start.

**SIXTH FORM STUDENTS MAKE A MARK WITH BASKETBALL LEADERSHIP**

This term, nearly 50 girls from Years 7-10 have been attending the Wednesday night basketball club. Our outstanding Sixth Former students, Concielle and Hoda, have been giving up their time each week to support and lead these sessions, helping to nurture the next generation of basketball players. Concielle and Hoda also travelled with the team to matches against other private schools, where their coaching efforts played a pivotal role in a 30+ point victory. Well done to both of you for your leadership and dedication to growing women's sports at Drayton Manor!

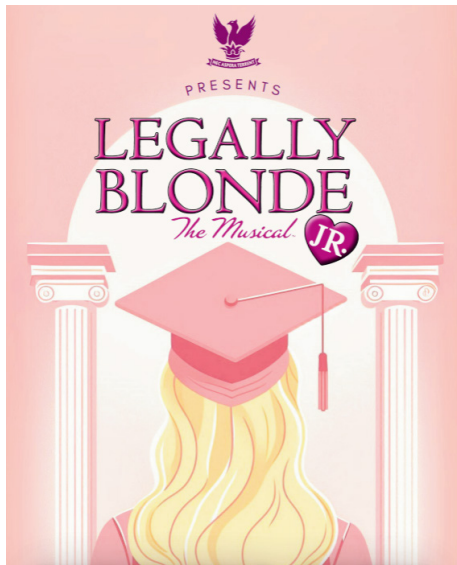




**DRAYTON MANOR'S 'GOING FOR GOLD' BASKETBALL PROGRAMME: A PRESTIGIOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR STUDENTS**

We are thrilled to announce the launch of Drayton Manor's new initiative, the 'Going for Gold' London Youth Games Basketball Programme. This is to build on the success of the Senior and Junior teams' impressive Ealing Borough League win, along with the gold and silver medals at the London Youth Games last season. The initiative has been designed by Mr Black, our PE teacher, to raise the standard of basketball at Drayton Manor, and we are excited that 15 students were selected to participate in this prestigious opportunity. The 'Going for Gold' programme focused on team training, honing both offensive and defensive skills to prepare the students for success at regional and national levels. This exciting initiative provided our students with an opportunity to grow both athletically and personally, and we look forward to seeing how they continue to develop in this programme.

**LEGALLY BLONDE: THE MUSICAL**



We're excited to announce that next year's school musical will be Legally Blonde Jr! Auditions have been a huge success, with over 50 talented students vying for some of the coveted roles. The energy and enthusiasm have been incredible. Stay tuned for updates and behind-the-scenes news as we prepare to bring this fabulous production to life!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Tuesday 7 January**  
First day of Spring Term (Return to school)

**Tuesday 21 January**  
Year 11 Parents Evening

**Wednesday 29 January**  
Classical Soloists Evening

**Thursday 30 January**  
Year 13 Parents Evening

**Thursday 1st February**  
Year 13 Parents Evening

**Tuesday 11 February**  
Safer Internet Day



*We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas break and a Happy New Year!*

