



As we step into the vibrant season of Spring, we are excited to reflect on the wonderful progress our students have made so far this term. This half term promises to be filled with new opportunities for growth, creativity, and achievement. From engaging classroom activities to enriching extra-curricular experiences, there is plenty to look forward to. In this edition of the half termly Newsletter, we will share highlights, upcoming events, and some of the inspiring moments that have shaped the start of the year. Here's to another season of learning, laughter, and success!

PATHWAY TO SUCCESS - FOUR YEAR 13 STUDENTS SECURE COVETED OXBRIDGE OFFERS!

We are incredibly proud to announce that four of our outstanding Year 13 students, Seth B (13.2), Billy H (13.7), Angus W (13.7), and Rabia K (13.7) have received offers to study at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge! Securing a place at Oxbridge is no small feat, as there is a rigorous application process, including admissions tests and interviews. Our students have demonstrated their commitment and talent, standing out among thousands of applicants nationwide. Their success is not only a personal milestone but also an inspiration to younger students, proving that ambition and hard work can lead to extraordinary opportunities. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to them and wish them the very best as they take this exciting next step in their academic journeys!

DRAYTON MANOR HOSTS ITS FIRST CLASSICAL SOLOIST NIGHT

By Year 11 student reporter Khadeeja S.



On 29 January 2025, we hosted our inaugural Classical Soloist Night, an evening celebrating exceptional musical talent. Organised by the Music Department, the event featured solo performances from students of all ages, showcasing both technical skill and emotional depth. A highlight of the night

was Cllr Julian Gallant, a distinguished pianist and composer, who served as the adjudicator. His message about the power of live performance and emotional connection resonated with performers and the audience alike. The competition featured categories from Beginner to Advanced, with standout performances from James (Year 7), Beth (Year 10), Josh (Year 7), Marko (Year 7), Eva (Year 10), Yuika (Year 7), Selma (Year 10), and Kate (Year 9), who was crowned Overall Winner for her stunning violin performance. Beyond the awards, the evening provided invaluable performance experience, leaving all involved inspired and excited for future events. To read more about this magical night, [click here](#).

YEAR 7 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME - A STEP TOWARDS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



We are pleased to announce that a group of outstanding Year 7 students have been selected for the prestigious Drayton Manor Scholarship Programme in Music, PE, and Maths. These students demonstrated exceptional dedication and enthusiasm during the recent Taster Activities, where they had the opportunity to showcase their skills and commitment to their chosen disciplines. Through hands-on learning and expert guidance, the selected scholars have taken their first steps towards academic and extracurricular excellence, setting a strong foundation for their future success. This is just the beginning, there will be more subjects and opportunities for other year groups to apply for scholarships soon.

DRAYTON MANOR STUDENTS HONOURED AT THE JACK PETCHEY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

We take great pride in recognising the dedication and achievements of our students

through the prestigious Jack Petchey Achievement Award. This special honour celebrates those who go above and beyond, demonstrating perseverance, kindness, and commitment to their school and community. Our award recipients were invited to the annual Jack Petchey Foundation Celebration Event, where they were joined by their families for an evening of well-deserved recognition. The winners for June 2024 were Bella K, Lorenzo C, Abhishek N, Fatima J, Mikyle A, and Maya B. The winners for November 2024 are Begum P, Megan P, and Mahmoud S. The atmosphere was filled with excitement as students proudly received their Achievement Award medallions in front of friends, teachers, and VIP guests. It was a truly inspiring occasion, highlighting the incredible efforts of young people who continue to make a positive impact every day.



FROM CLAY TO CREATION – CHARLOTTE MOORE'S CERAMICS WORKSHOP



We recently welcomed architect and ceramicist Charlotte Moore for an exclusive ceramics workshop, where students from various year groups explored the art of clay. Under Charlotte's expert guidance, students shaped their own clay tiles, incorporating



intricate details inspired by nature, such as delicate leaf impressions. The session highlighted the transformative process of ceramics, with students learning about the stages of bisque firing and glaze firing that turn soft clay into solid ceramic pieces. This workshop was just the beginning, as Charlotte will soon return to work on a ceramic installation for the school's new sixth form building, inspired by a design from Year 12 student Esma. [Click here](#) to read about the students' creative journey during these artistic sessions.

A JOURNEY FROM DRAYTON MANOR TO THE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER – KEY INSIGHTS FOR SUCCESS



By Year 11 student reporter Ivanna S
On 31 January 2025, Drayton Manor welcomed alumnus Pedro da Conceição, now studying Law at the University of Exeter, to share his journey from GCSEs to university success. Pedro stressed the importance of engaging in extracurricular activities at school, which helped him build skills vital for university and future careers. He encouraged Year 11 students to approach revision with a positive mindset, focusing on consistency and effort rather than stress. Pedro also provided valuable insights into life at university, especially the transition from Sixth Form, and discussed the realities of pursuing a career in law. [Click here](#) to read Pedro's inspiring story that serves as an encouraging reminder that success is shaped by both effort and mindset.

DRAYTON MANOR GOES ON A CREATIVE JOURNEY WITH A TRADITIONAL INDIAN WOODBLOCK PRINTING WORKSHOP



Drayton Manor students recently had the unique opportunity to experience the ancient

art of Indian woodblock printing, led by renowned artist Neerja Sehgal. This hands-on workshop allowed students to create vibrant, intricate patterns by pressing carved wooden blocks onto fabric and paper. The workshop was not just about artistry, it also fostered collaboration, as students worked together to craft a tapestry celebrating the rich history of the school. The tapestry will be a central feature in the school's 95 Year Anniversary celebrations, symbolising Drayton Manor's legacy. [Click here](#) to read more about the workshop that bridged traditional craftsmanship with modern creativity.

YEAR 12 AND 13 CAREERS ASSEMBLY – PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

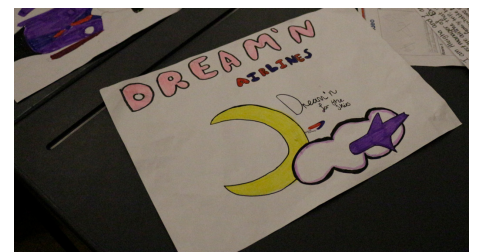
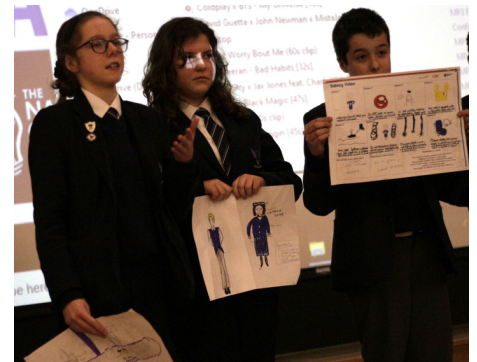
As Year 13 students prepare for life beyond Drayton Manor, they recently attended an insightful assembly led by the University of Exeter's School and College Engagement Officer. The session provided essential guidance on managing university finances, covering everything from tuition fees and student loans to budgeting for rent, food, and daily expenses. Students gained a clear understanding of the financial support available, including government loans, grants, and scholarships, as well as practical tips for making smart financial decisions before and during university. The talk highlighted the importance of financial planning, helping students feel more prepared and confident as they take their next big step into higher education. With university applications in full swing, this session was a timely and valuable opportunity for students to ask questions and gain the knowledge they need to navigate their financial future successfully.



YEAR 8 STUDENTS SOAR IN THE NATIONAL CAREERS CHALLENGE!

Our Year 8 students recently took flight in the exciting National Careers Challenge, proudly sponsored by British Airways. Tasked with creating a brand-new subsidiary airline to join the ranks of CityFlyer and EuroFlyer, students embarked on a creative journey

through the world of international travel. They delved into designing their airline's identity, from selecting target customers and destinations to crafting top-notch service experiences while balancing sustainability and commercial success. This immersive challenge sparked innovation and sharpened essential skills like teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. It also served as an inspiring bridge between education and real-world employment, empowering our students to think big about their future careers and the skills they'll need to thrive. We are incredibly proud of their creativity and determination throughout the process. As a thrilling next step, three teams will present their visionary ideas to staff, with one winning team earning the honour of representing Drayton Manor at The National Careers Challenge Grand Finals!



DRAYTON MANOR STUDENTS TAKE THE STAGE IN THE JACK PETCHEY SPEAK OUT CHALLENGE!

Two of our talented Year 10 students proudly represented Drayton Manor at the prestigious Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, a celebration of young voices and the power of public speaking. This inspiring event gave them the platform to share their thoughts on topics close to their hearts, delivering



passionate and thought-provoking speeches to a large audience. The evening was filled with originality, confidence, and powerful storytelling, as students from across the region tackled a wide range of compelling issues. We are proud of our speakers for their courage, eloquence, and ability to engage an audience. Their participation in this challenge is a testament to the strength of youth voice and the importance of speaking out on issues that matter!



YEAR 9 STUDENTS GAIN ESSENTIAL SAFEGUARDING AND SAFETY SKILLS WITH TFL



Year 9 students recently took part in an important safeguarding session led by Transport for London (TfL), focusing on safety on public transport. The interactive session covered key topics such as recognising inappropriate Behaviour, knowing how to respond if they witness or experience inappropriate behaviour, and the importance of reporting incidents to prevent repeat offenses. With real-world scenarios linked to routes around our school, students were encouraged to think critically about how they would react in different situations. Engaging discussions and a Q&A session allowed them to explore concerns and gain practical advice on staying safe while traveling. This eye-opening session empowered our students with the confidence and knowledge to take action, reinforcing the message that everyone has a role to play in creating safer public spaces.

BRILLIANT CLUB SCHOLARS TAKE THEIR LEARNING TO THE NEXT LEVEL!



Our Year 10 students have officially wrapped up their final tutorial with the Brilliant Club tutor Adam Nash, marking the completion of an incredible academic journey. As part of the programme, students tackled a University-Style essay, honing their research and writing skills while receiving invaluable feedback to guide their future studies. Meanwhile, our Year 11 cohort kicked off their Brilliant Club experience in January, diving into thought-provoking discussions with their dedicated PhD tutor. Since 2011, The Brilliant Club has connected students with PhD researchers, helping to develop the confidence, skills, and knowledge needed to secure places at top universities. We are excited to see how our Year 11 students progress throughout the Spring term as they take on this prestigious challenge!

PATHWAY TO OXBRIDGE - YEAR 11 AND 12 STUDENTS GAIN EXCLUSIVE INSIGHTS

Selected Year 11 and Year 12 students recently had the opportunity to attend an insightful online session led by a representative from St John's College, Cambridge. The talk provided a valuable glimpse into life at one of the world's most prestigious universities, offering key advice on what Oxbridge looks for in applicants. Students gained a deeper understanding of the application process, including essential elements to include in their submissions, key dates for admissions tests, and what to expect from the interview process. The session was both informative and inspiring, encouraging students to aim high and consider the exciting possibilities that higher education - particularly at Oxbridge - can offer.



INTUITIVE TALK ON BUSINESS PSYCHOLOGY WITH PARENT MRS DUCKWORTH

The Year 12 and 13 students recently had the opportunity to hear from Mrs Jennifer Duckworth, who shared her experiences in Business Psychology and running her own business. She spoke about her journey from university to various roles before launching her company, offering valuable career advice. Mrs Duckworth also highlighted the role of Psychology in the workplace, giving students insight into real world applications and career paths in the field. The session was highly engaging and informative, inspiring students to explore opportunities in Psychology and Business.



DRAYTON ALUMNI INSPIRE STUDENTS WITH SCIENCE AND DATA SCIENCE WORKSHOPS



On 10 February 2025, we welcomed back two esteemed alumni, Dr James Bolagi, PhD, a leading biologist and research scientist at Imperial College who contributed to the discovery of the Covid-19 vaccine, and Hadi Ahmed one of the UK's top Data Scientists and a Director at a leading consultancy. Both guests delivered an inspiring talk during the Year 11 assembly, sharing their experiences, career journeys, and advice on ambition and overcoming challenges. Their stories provided students with invaluable insights into the world of scientific research and data science. Following the assembly, Dr Bolagi led an exclusive Science Workshop on the top floor of the Sixth Form building, where selected students from Years 9 to 13 explored cutting-edge biological research. Meanwhile, Hadi Ahmed conducted a Data Science Workshop in the Atelier



room, engaging students interested in IT, Economics, and Mathematics with real-world applications of data science and problem-solving techniques. The visit was a fantastic opportunity for students to connect with successful Drayton Manor alumni and gain a deeper understanding of potential career paths in Science and Technology.

ANNUAL BOOK SWAP - A CELEBRATION OF READING



On 23 January, the library buzzed with excitement as students participated in the annual Book Swap during both lunch periods. This much-anticipated event encouraged students to bring in their pre-loved books and exchange them for new reads, fostering a love for literature and sustainability. For every book donated, students had the opportunity to take home a fresh title, with many enthusiastic readers bringing in over ten books to trade! The event was a resounding success, sparking conversations about favourite stories and expanding reading horizons across the school.

DRAYTON MANOR SHINES AT THE ELLEN WILKINSON NETBALL TOURNAMENT



After weeks of dedicated training, rain or shine, our netball team proudly earned their place in the highly competitive Ellen Wilkinson Netball Tournament. Battling fierce opponents and braving the bitter cold of -3°C, our players showcased not only their skill and determination but also the true spirit of Drayton Manor. With unwavering teamwork and resilience, they played each match with intensity while upholding the school's values of respect and sportsmanship. Despite the challenging conditions, their passion for the sport never wavered, and they delivered a performance to be proud of. Well done to all our players for their hard work, commitment, and exceptional display of netball prowess!

STUDENTS EXCEL AT THE MIDDLESEX CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS



On Tuesday 4 February, five outstanding Drayton Manor students represented the Ealing team at the Middlesex Cross Country Championships, held at the prestigious Harrow School. Competing against top talent, Sofia M, Kalell M, Naimah M, Thomas P, and Dante E showcased their endurance and determination on the challenging course. A special congratulations to Sofia M, who secured an impressive Third Place out of 71 competitors in the Year 8 to 9 Girls' race, and Naimah M, who finished Sixth out of 50 in the Year 10 to 11 Girls' race. Their exceptional performances have earned them a place at the English Schools Cross Country Championships on Saturday 15 March 2025, where they will proudly represent Middlesex. Well done to all our runners for their dedication and hard work - we cannot wait to see what comes next!



NETBALL TRAINING IN FULL SWING



Netball training is back, and students in Years 7 to 10 are seizing the opportunity to refine their skills with Coach Lisa from Evolution Netball. Sessions take place during Tuesday lunch periods, providing students with expert coaching, skill development, and the chance to be selected for the Year 8 to 10 team training after school on Tuesdays. Meanwhile, the Year 7 netball team, accompanied by Mrs Williams, showcased their hard work and determination at the Ealing Borough Tournament on Tuesday 28 January at Ellen Wilkinson School. With their teamwork and dedication, the squad continues to grow stronger - ready to take on future competitions!

YEAR 8 BOYS FOOTBALL LEAGUE SECURES A STRONG VICTORY!



On a chilly and overcast afternoon, our Year 8 boys took to the pitch against a determined Ada Lovelace side, securing a well-earned 4-1 victory in their latest league fixture. Debutant Darin K made an immediate impact, scoring twice (16', 27') to help propel the team forward. Arman F added to the tally with a goal in the twentieth minute, while Edward F sealed the win late in the game. Despite the final scoreline, Ada Lovelace put up a strong fight, testing Drayton Manor throughout the match. A challenging, boggy pitch made passing difficult, but Drayton's defence, led by Owen S and the outstanding goalkeeping of Arlo L, held firm. We responded with resilience, defending bravely while creating



several counter-attacking chances. In the closing moments, a well-worked move down the left flank set up Edward, who calmly slotted the ball past the diving keeper to secure the 4-1 win. A well-deserved three points for Drayton Manor—now they look ahead to their next challenge after half-term!

BASKETBALL CLUB BOUNCES INTO ACTION



Basketball fever is alive and well at Drayton Manor, with Coach Tasharn leading the KS3 Lunchtime Basketball Club every day during Period 4. Meanwhile, the Girls' Basketball Club has seen an incredible turnout this year, with Coach Tasharn and Coach Concielle running engaging sessions every Wednesday after school. Through dynamic drills and exciting game situations, students are honing their technique, teamwork, and confidence, proving that basketball at Drayton Manor is stronger than ever!

FOOTBALL SUCCESS ACROSS YEAR GROUPS

It has been an action-packed season for Drayton Manor's football teams, with impressive performances across multiple competitions! The Year 7 Boys have stormed into the semi-finals of the Ealing Borough Cup, after a hard-fought victory over William Perkin High School. They now prepare to take on Elthorne Park in the next round. Meanwhile, the Year 8 Boys battled their way to the quarterfinals of the Borough Cup but were edged out by William Perkin. Despite this, they remain determined to finish strong in the Year 8 Boys League, with key fixtures still ahead.

The Under 14 Girls Team have been a dominant force, staying undefeated in the Ealing Borough League! In their latest match against local rivals Elthorne Park, they put on a stellar display, holding a 1-0 lead for most of the game. Although the match ended 1-1, it was a fantastic effort, with special recognition for goalkeeper Rahma H, who was named Player of the Match. As we look ahead, Football Club for Years 7 to 10 will resume

next half-term at the Games Field, alongside exciting Inter-House Competitions.

SWIMMING RETURNS TO THE YEAR 7 PE CURRICULUM

After a five-year hiatus, we are excited to announce that swimming is officially back on the Year 7 PE Curriculum! The long-awaited return follows the closure of Gurnell Leisure Centre, and we are excited to once again offer this essential life skill to our students. Every Wednesday and Friday morning, Mr Bowman, Mr Barnes, and Ms Hall have been leading our Year 7 students to Northolt Leisure Centre for their swimming sessions. Despite the 8.15am start, attendance has been fantastic, with students eager to dive in and develop their swimming techniques, confidence in the water, and even lifesaving skills. These sessions will continue throughout the Spring and Summer terms, ensuring that all students can improve their abilities and enjoy the many benefits of swimming. It is great to see our young swimmers making such a splash!

RUGBY CLUB RETURNS

After a short winter break, the Rugby Club is back, and Mr. Bowman and Mr. Barnes are looking forward to welcoming students back onto the field. Open to all abilities, Rugby Club provides a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their skills in a fun and supportive environment. Sessions will focus on touch and tag rugby, helping players build confidence, teamwork, and game awareness.

EXCITING SPORTING PARTNERSHIPS ON THE HORIZON

We are thrilled to announce our collaboration with Queen's Park Rangers Football Club, a project that has already brought incredible opportunities to our students. Additionally, we are gearing up for an exciting new partnership with Brentford Football Club, further expanding our sporting initiatives. Stay tuned for more details in our End of Term Newsletter in April, where we will share insights into these partnerships and their impact on our school!

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

Students will shortly begin preparing for their Year 10 GCSE options. There will be a range of events and activities taking place for students on site after half term starting the week commencing from 24 February.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 25 February
University of Reading Trip
- 26 February
Year 9 GCSE Options Assembly
- 27 February
Year 12 Parents Evening
- 28 February
Psychology Talks with Mrs Duckworth
- 3 March
Spanish Trip to Valencia
- 13 March
Year 9 Parents Evening
- 13 March
Year 11 Spring Mocks begin
- 21 March
Red nose Day
- 24 March
Positively You Seminar
- 26 March
Year 13 Mocks begin
- 27 March
Year 10 Parents Evening
- 28 March
Year 9 GCSEs Options Deadline

IMPORTANT DATES AFTER HALF TERM

YEAR 12 PARENTS' EVENING

The Parents' Evening will be on Thursday 22 February from 4.30pm to 7.00pm. We are once again using an online appointment booking system called School Cloud to conduct these appointments where you will receive key information about your child's progress in each of their subject areas. The evening will focus on how your child is progressing in their subjects and we will therefore not be able to facilitate appointments with tutors at this time.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you for your support of the students and the school. We will share more exciting work with you next half term. Have a nice break!

The school will resume on Monday 24 February 2025. Half Term Break will be from 17 to 21 February.