



### A BUZZING AND REWARDING AUTUMN TERM

It has been a busy school term with a vast range of activities taking place across the school. We are proud of the hard work of our students, with outstanding performances not only in activities held within the school, but also in external activities and competitions. Our students are truly living up to our school's ethos to be the best version of themselves, be resilient and do good for others.

### ETHIC OF EXCELLENCE

We hosted Ethic of Excellence Award presentations for hundreds of Year 7 to 13 students who have achieved high standards in various areas, including sustained excellence in a subject, a one-off outstanding piece of work, major improvement in schoolwork and for contributing to the school community.



Risaala (10K) shared her excitement at receiving the Awards. "I am proud to say that I have been awarded two Ethic of Excellence Awards for Spanish and Mathematics. I was determined to receive an Ethic of Excellence Award and I am delighted that all of my hard work has paid off. During lessons, I pushed myself, completed extension tasks and contributed lots to lessons. I was so pleased that I was invited to a ceremony with other students who have been working just as hard. I felt very happy as I was congratulated by the Head Teacher for my outstanding contribution

in these lessons. The Ethic of Excellence Award feels like a nice appreciation for our hard work."

### AWARDS EVENING



On 10 November, we celebrated the achievements of students at our annual Awards Evening in the presence of families, staff and Governors. The guest of honour was our alumna Patima Shareefy. Patima now works in a school forging vital relationships with their alumni and managing their events programme. She is also the Managing Director of a local, highly reputable charity called the Znaniye Foundation. Their mission, which is close to Patima's heart, is focused on providing equal opportunities for young people from deprived back grounds. The Head Boy Enis, Head Girl Asma, Deputy Head Boy Abdullahi, and Deputy Head Girl Ting Ting presided over the ceremony for the evening where students were awarded for their sustained excellence during the previous academic year. It was lovely to welcome back students who left in the summer and who are now at university. There were many outstanding musical performances which included the school Funk Band who performed Liquid Spirit by Gregory Porter. There was also poetry written and performed by students from across a number of year groups. It really was a wonderful occasion.



### LEST WE FORGET

On Thursday 11 November at 11am, students and staff at Drayton Manor High School stopped to observe a two-minute silence and remember those men and women who lost their lives in the Great War and in all armed conflicts since. It was also a chance to reflect on those students who attended Drayton Manor who gave up their time today so that we might have our tomorrow and who are featured on the War Memorial located outside the School Hall. Adam in Year 9 played The Last Post on the piazza which could be heard across the school as the community observed the silence.

For the first time, the student leadership team formed a guard of honour for the Head Boy and Head Girl who carried wreaths to be laid outside the main hall to commemorate the fallen from Drayton Manor.

Adam's parents and grandparents were also invited to attend as guests of honour.



To mark the occasion, a special video was produced which has been made available on our website [here](#) and will be saved in our Archives.

### FUNDRAISING FILM EVENT

On November 25, 90 students attended a film screening of 'Journey's End' to raise money for Help For Heroes, a charity organisation supporting wounded veterans and their families. Students behaved impeccably, and we are proud of their civic virtue in raising £80 to support the charity.



**ACHIEVEMENTS IN COMPETITIONS**

**Faraday Challenge Day**  
**By Alfie, 8G**



"The Faraday Challenge Day is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) competition held annually across the UK. Five other Year 8 students and I travelled to Notting Hill High School to compete in a full day in the hopes of bringing home a regional trophy for our school. We were tasked with designing and creating a product that would help patients or staff in a children's hospital. We came up with an electronic teddy bear with features such as music, different textures and glowing lights to help comfort, stimulate and advance young children's sensory skills. However, each team was given 120 'credits' to spend. These could be used at a shop to buy materials, electronic components and tools so 'credit' management was an important factor to consider. Therefore, we decided it would be best if each of us focused on a different aspect of the challenge by assigning roles, for example, credit management, product design, electronics and writing a pitch for our design. Overall, we worked great as a team and so we achieved a well-designed polished prototype. The hardest and the most nerve-racking part of the day was the presentation. We were required to present our product and prototype to everyone on site in the knowledge that it would be rated by the judges. After each team had presented and rated there was a moment of silence, waiting to see whose effort had given them the edge over others. Finally, we had won! After six hours of hard work, we were filled with joy to be awarded the regional trophy. Not only had we won the local competition, but we had also been placed fourth on the national league, putting us on track to qualify for the final competition which will be held in Liverpool in June 2022."

**Speak Out Challenge**

Year 10 students took part in the Jack Petchey's 'Speak Out Challenge' which is a nationwide speech delivering programme that champions the young voices of Britain.

We invited trainers from the Speakers Trust to organise two training sessions for our students. During the sessions, students were given instructions and guidance on how to best deliver speeches about topics that are important to them.



Hilary and Justin from the Speakers Trust were blown away by the professionalism and dedication demonstrated by the students, commenting on how impeccable their behaviour was and the high standards they kept throughout the day. Overall, it was a brilliant day in which the students were able to learn and express themselves in front of a real audience.

Towards the end of the training, six students - Rabia (10K), Daniel (10E), Ragd (10K), Lily (10F), Prakritee (10E) and Shaghayegh (10E) were selected to progress to the next stage of the competition. The winners of this competition will represent Drayton Manor in a regional competition and compete with other schools in the Ealing Borough. We look forward with anticipation to the next round!

**Senior Maths Challenge**

On Wednesday 10 November, 25 students from Year 12 and 15 students from Year 13 sat The Senior Mathematical Challenge 2021 organised by The United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. We are pleased that 11 Drayton Manor students won Bronze Award, four students won Silver Award and Zahra from Year 12 won Gold Award. Congratulations to Zahra for qualifying for The Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo, a national follow-up round to the Senior Mathematical Challenge, held in December. Students who achieved Bronze Award rank within the top 40% of all participants in the UK, those who achieved Silver Award rank within the top 20% and those who achieved the Gold Award rank within the top 7%. By taking part in such reputable national competitions, students can build up their portfolios for their applications to universities. Congratulations to students for their fantastic

achievements. A huge thank you to Dr Blair and the Maths team for their help running the competition.

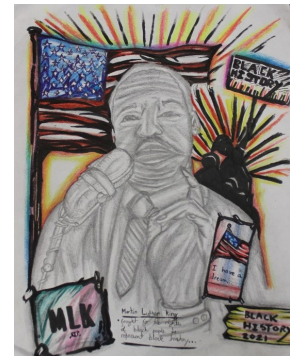
**AMAZING WORK DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

At Drayton Manor, we take great pride in our commitment to championing equality and diversity, as reflected in a variety of activities for students in art and drama during Black History Month.

**Art**



Winning piece by Futura (7E)



Franco (8H)



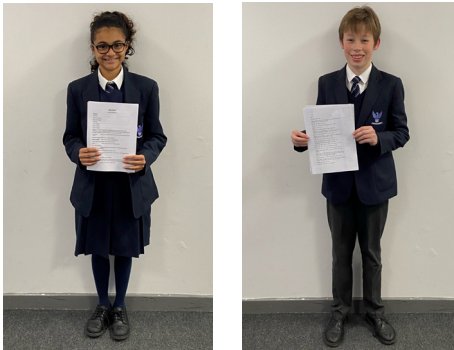
Isabela (9H)

The Art Department held a competition for students to share their artistic talents in celebration and honour of black men and women who have made significant historical contributions to Drayton Manor and society. The number of submissions was very impressive, so the task of selecting a winner proved difficult. We are pleased that



our Sixth Form Art students stepped up to the challenge to select winners for the competition. Congratulations to our overall Winners of Year 7, 8 and 9 - Futura (7E), Franco (8H) and Isabela (9H). Year 13 students and competition judges, Maram and Khoshy, shared their feedback. "It inspired us as a school community to raise awareness and celebrate the achievements of the Black community around the world. This was an opportunity to encourage all creative students to shine by showcasing their talent and create unique artwork." Maram continued "As one of the Art Ambassadors, I would like to thank every artist that took this opportunity to highlight the importance of this special month. We were all blown away by the effort everybody put in, which made it difficult for us to choose the winners. We all came together to make a final decision from many fantastic pieces. Overall, the winners created outstanding pieces where they clearly highlighted the significance of black history. Once again, I would like to thank everyone who took part."

### Drama



October saw the first drama script writing competition at Drayton Manor. We asked students to compose scripts around some historical figures using their imagination and creative writing skills. The Drama Department was proud of the entries from Key Stage 3 students especially those from Year 7. We are pleased to announce Keira (7H) and Jamie (9E) as the winners.

Winners of the competition will be invited to perform and film their winning scripts which will be showcased on the school website.

### CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

#### Christmas Concert

On Wednesday 1 December we welcomed 210 guests to watch our annual Christmas Concert. As the event had to take such a different form last year, it was a real joy for both staff and students to be able to celebrate the musical achievements of our

students in person. Over 100 students were involved in the concert, from the Year 7 choir with their rendition of Jingle Bell Rock to a duet written and performed by two Year 13 students.

One of the highlights of the event was the school orchestra, now over 30 strong, and made up of students in every year group, performing an arrangement of themes from Pirates of the Caribbean that they began rehearsing before the first lockdown in January 2020. Throughout all the rehearsals as well as the event itself our students demonstrated not only impressive musical talent, but also outstanding levels of support and respect for one another and we are very proud of them all.

#### Christmas Lunch

Students across Year 7s to 10 and Sixth Formers were able to attend a special Christmas lunch in the Dining Hall. Tickets for the event sold out fast and students were able to enjoy a festive two-course meal complete with crackers, music and even a visit from Santa! Special thanks to helpers from Year 12 who served food to the tables for students.



#### Extending warm wishes to the community

For over a decade, it has been our school's tradition to host a Winter Party for local senior citizens in care homes and who live locally in our community. Last year, we were unable to do this, so it was an absolute delight to be able to reintroduce the party – all be it in a slightly different format. Rather than hosting the event on site, our Sixth Form students visited two local care homes, St David's Home and Chestnut Lodge, and

took gift bags and cards to the residents, which students had spent many hours putting together. They sang Christmas carols and had a great time together.



#### Sixth Form Christmas Lunch

Every year, the school hosts a complimentary lunch for Year 13 students to thank them for their significant contributions to the life of the school. Students enjoyed a two-course meal and speeches from the Head Boy and Head Girl, followed by a Sixth Form Talent Show!



#### ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Building students' character is an integral part of our school education. The theme for this year's Anti-Bullying Week was 'One Kind Word'. We organised activities for students to promote acts of kindness and empathy. We invited Tad Milmine, founder of an international charity organisation called 'Bullying Ends Here', to speak to our School Council members, House Captain, Wellbeing Ambassadors, the transition team, Digital Ambassadors and Year 10 students. He talked about the impact of bullying on mental health and encouraged students to understand different views and the importance of spreading kindness.





**TEAM BUILDING FOR YEAR 8**



As part of our commitment to supporting the growth of students' character and ambition, we worked with WiseUp to organise a team building activity for Year 8 students on school site on Thursday 4 November. Students were involved in a range of activities which were designed to test and develop their team building and communication skills over the course of the day.



Our students' performances were fabulous. Most of the teams completed over five different obstacles in the space of two hours, beating the WiseUp national average by an hour! Congratulations to all students involved, especially 8H who completed the most obstacles and achieved the highest overall average score. A special thanks to our helpers from Year 12 who assisted and acted as judges for each team's performance.

**STUDENT VOICE**

**By Amelie, 7I**

"On 24 November, Wellbeing Ambassadors, School Councillors and Tutor reps were invited to a focus group to sample food and give feedback to the school caterer Olive Dining. The school caterer prepared a range of dishes for students to taste to include them in future menus, including smoothies, nachos, pasta salads, mozzarella sticks, some vegetarian

options, kebab and a chocolate brownie. I liked the pasta salad box and nachos with different sauces available to choose from. I think the activity is amazing because students can give their views on and influence the dining menu at the school."

**CREATIVE WRITING CLUB**

We launched a Creative Writing Club every Wednesday after school which has been a great success. Miss Baskeyfield and Miss Dear run the club and each week, the students complete a writing task using an array of different prompts and genres, including crime, horror and comedy. We use videos and pictures, as well as writing techniques to create a range of wonderful stories and descriptions. We often listen to each other's writing at the end of the session which always showcases great talent. Students put their writing into a portfolio each week so that their stories are kept and can be enjoyed afterwards.

**NATIONAL POETRY DAY COMPETITION**

To celebrate the National Poetry Day, the English department held a poetry writing competition for all students. Students were asked to write a poem in line with the theme for the National Poetry Day 'Change'. We received a vast array of exciting, entertaining and genuinely well written poems. Five of the poets, Eva (7H), Ikram (13.4), Alice (7H), Inara (7I) and Thomas (8L), performed their poems as part of the School's Awards Evening and they did incredibly well, performing with a huge amount of confidence and talent.

**GCSE AND A LEVEL DRAMA TRIP**

On 2 November, GCSE and A Level Drama class students went to watch *The Woman in Black*, an award-winning play celebrating its 30 years in theatre, in London. Alyssa from Year 13 and Karina from Year 12 enjoyed the play very much and they wrote reviews of the play. Thanks to Mr Griffin and Ms Grants for organising the visit for our students.

Alyssa (13.5) "As both an audience member and a Drama student, I found the play's use of two characters in addition to the unnamed, mystical figure of *The Woman in Black* to be exceedingly interesting. The style of a self-contained 'play within a play' narrative struck me as rather intriguing, as I had not experienced a story quite like it previously. This feeling was only heightened at the end of the performance when the two previously separated spheres of the story came together through Arthur Kipp's bone-chilling

revelation. The effective use of lighting states and deeply discomfiting audio engineered a truly unsettling experience for audience members (including myself) which thrilled me to the extent that certain scenes from the play remained in my memory days after I had seen the play itself. Therefore, I feel it would be truthful to conclude that I greatly enjoyed the production of *The Woman in Black* and wish to see it again at another time in the future." Karina (12.5) "I enjoyed the performance of *The Woman in Black*, especially because thriller and horror genres are the ones I am particularly interested in. The overall atmosphere of the play was quite mysterious which is great as it built up tension around key ideas such as the graveyard or retelling of the death of his wife Stella and his child. I found it interesting from the multi-rolling and stylised movement of the dog named Spider added realistic vibes and made it so much more believable. German playwright Berthold Brecht was the practitioner the performance was influenced by and one of the Brechtian skills used was narration. The set is sparse allowing both actors to get you as an audience member to use your imagination throughout enhancing the experience. I was on the edge of my seat waiting for something scary to happen sometimes by the action on the stage and at other times by peers around me. It was an amazing play and I felt I could watch it again and have the same reactions all over again."

**YEAR 7 MUSIC CONCERT**



On Wednesday 3 November we welcomed Year 7 parents to our Hall to watch our annual Year 7 concert. As the first live performance in nearly two years, this was a very special event and the Year 7 performers rose magnificently to meet the occasion. We were treated to performances from our Year 7 choir, solo piano performances and some songs that had been put together by small groups of singers and instrumentalists, including one that had been written by a student in Year 7. We also watched the winning tutor



group performances from our House Music Festival that ran in the first half term, 7G performed Pompeii's Bastille including some vocal harmonies and 7F's performance of Vance Joy's Riptide completed with British Sign Language (BSL). The musical talent on show across the evening from all performers promises a very exciting future for the Music Department at Drayton Manor.

### ALUMNI MOTIVATIONAL TALKS



We welcomed back Ali Karmanjy who is now studying at the prestigious London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Ali was inspirational as he shared with the Year 11 students how he had improved his academic results and achieved outstanding grades in all his subjects at GCSE and A level exams. Ali explained the importance of ambition, integrity and sacrifice in accomplishing his goals. He encouraged students to work hard and follow revision programmes. He advised that listening attentively to teachers' instructions and asking teachers questions on challenging areas of their studies were also key to success.

### SIXTH FORM

#### UCAS Early Applications



In late October, we held a celebration breakfast for 17 Year 13 students who submitted their applications to Medicine and Dentistry schools and courses at Oxford and Cambridge including Economics, Law, Music, Psychology and Education. This year,

we also have one student applying for Music Performance at conservatoires. They were joined by the Year 13 Open Evening team who had done such a fantastic job at representing the school to meet prospective Sixth Form students.

Our Year 13 students have worked very hard on their UCAS early applications. Since Year 12, they have been attending weekly twilight lessons as part of the school's Scholars' Programme, which supports students to apply to degree courses at prestigious universities and colleges. For example, students who have applied to Medicine and Dentistry schools attended one-on-one support on their personal statement from a practising medical doctor and a recent Medicine graduate from the University of Oxford. They also took part in mock interviews conducted by our subject specialists and Oxbridge graduates from Drayton Manor.

Well done to all students involved and we wish them the very best with their university applications and their A Level studies.

### THE STEM HUB

To encourage all students in the school to pursue activities in STEM and support them in finding related opportunities and careers, Sixth Form students launched The STEM Hub this school term. They also created the first edition of a newsletter [here](#), highlighting a variety of activities such as competitions and STEM-related events that have organised during this school term, and the latest news of the STEM world.

### SPORTS REPORT

Drayton Manor athletes have been back on the fields in the Autumn Term. Our netball, rugby, basketball, football and trampoline clubs are held each week, training students who will represent the school in inter-school competitions. With hard work and determination, our students and teams have achieved outstanding results in competitions. Keep it up!

#### Netball

Netball teams of all year groups have been training every Tuesday throughout this season. Every squad is currently unbeatable in their respective Ealing Leagues, with the Year 7 team winning their first ever fixture against Ellen Wilkinson. The Year 8 team are off to a strong start this season with two wins in the League competition secured against Ellen Wilkinson and Ada Lovelace.

This season, Year 9 netball players are playing up with the Year 10s. The squad is currently

undefeated in the League competition with their latest win against Ellen Wilkinson. They came top of their group at the Borough Tournament, but unfortunately lost to Elthorne Park in the semi-final. The Senior team took home the silver medals in this year's Borough Tournament. The Netball Club will be continuing throughout the Spring Term with League fixtures for all teams including Year 7 and 8 Borough Tournaments.



#### Boys Basketball

The Junior Boys and Senior Boys basketball clubs have very high numbers each week since the start of the season.

Year 7 training has been well attended and the work ethic of the players has seen improvements in terms of skill level and game understanding. They narrowly lost their first ever fixture against Ealing Fields 20-21. The Junior and Senior Boys teams have shown excellent commitment in training and achieved amazing results in Inter School competitions. The Junior Boys are working hard to develop their skills and look strong as they approach their first match against Ada Lovelace. The Senior Boys look confident and have made a good start to the season with their first win against Twyford beating them 20-21.

#### Girls Football

All teams have been training every week throughout this season, with over 30 students in attendance each session. The Under 13 team had an incredible run in the 7-a-side Borough Tournament. They were undefeated in the group stage, and easily beat Villiers and Greenford in the Quarterfinal and Semi-final respectively. They faced Cardinal Wiseman in the final and were evenly matched as the game concluded in a penalty shoot-out. The pressure was high and against an incisive Wiseman team, our girls took home the silver medals.

The Under 13s were invited to a Futsal tournament hosted by Ada Lovelace. Having never played the sport before, they were given a whistle-stop session by Drayton Manor alumna Selin Buyukyiray, who played Futsal at



a national level. The competition was intense and fast, but the Under 13s secured a place in the final against the host. They took the lead early with a goal from Brooke (8I), but the opponents came back with a score of their own which took it to penalties. Unfortunately, the team tripped at the final hurdle and took second place.



In the Middlesex Cup, both the Under 13s and Under 16s have progressed to quarter-finals of their respective competitions. They will play their next matches in the new year.

**Boys Football**

We have had the highest numbers of students attending Under 13 and Under 15 training this year- more than any recent season. Both groups have made an enthusiastic start to their training programme.

The Under 16 squad has reached the quarter-final of the MSFA Moncaster Cup. They are due to play Queens Park Community in the new year.



The numbers attending Sixth Form Football Enrichment have been high, meaning for the first time in recent years the school has been able to field First, Second and Third XI teams. On 24 November, Merchant Taylors' School hosted friendly matches for the Sixth Form XI teams. The Second XI narrowly lost 2-3, and the Third XI successfully drew 3-3. Using what they had drilled in training the First XI were able to cut up the opponent's defence again and again, resulting in an emphatic 1-0 win.

**Rugby**

The Rugby club runs every Thursday after school at the Games Field. Students have all had the opportunity to train and enjoy the competitive nature of the game. The club will resume in the Spring Term.

**Trampoline**

Trampoline Club has proven to be very popular this year, with spaces filling up quickly each week. Students have worked on developing isolated skills, which they have incorporated into routines.

**HOUSE CAPTAINS**

Students from across the school have written applications in order to gain the position of House Captains. This process involves writing about the school values and how they as individuals would represent them in the role of House Captain.

Congratulations to all successful candidates who will be announced in the school assemblies at the start of next Term.

During these ceremonies House Captains will receive a certificate and their House Captain badge. Photographs will be taken for the school record and to create a display in the Allenby corridor so that students understand who their House Captains are.

House Captains will meet every fortnight to develop and promote the House system across the school. This will include working with our designated charities to create further opportunities for community outreach. Students will also be involved in developing new House events to enhance the environmental life of the school.

	Caladrius	Phoenix
Year 7	Ifra (7F) Meena (7F)	Frederick (7G) Keira (7H)
Year 8	Murat (8E) Frieda (8F)	Timur (8H) Cerys (8G)
Year 9	Archie (9E) Ariana (9E)	Ayo (9H) Nasteha (9H)
Year 10	Aasiya (10F) Mohammed (10F)	Hussien (10H) Lilly (10G)
Year 11	Alexander (11E)	Umran (11H) Zena (11H)

	Griffin	Pegasus
Year 7	Adil (7I) Minnie (7I)	Marzio (7K) Aimee (7K)
Year 8	Alejandro (8I) Maya (8J)	Vishvendran (8L) Parisa (8K)
Year 9	Sulaiman (9I) Julia (9J)	Paulo (9K) Arina (9L)
Year 10	Yusuf (10I) Francesca (10I)	Jaafar (10K) Risaala (10K)
Year 11	Habib (11I) Lee (11I)	Alois (11K) Sadie (11K)

**BEST WISHES AND THANK YOU**

Thank you for your support of the students and the school. We look forward to sharing more great work from our students in the New Year. We wish you and your families and a restful and enjoyable Christmas break. See you in 2022!



**SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS**

**SPRING TERM 2022**

Tuesday 4 January (staff training day)

**STUDENT TERM DATES**

Wednesday 5 January - Friday 1 April 2022

**HALF TERM**

Monday 14 February - Friday 18 February

**EASTER HOLIDAY**

**SUMMER TERM 2022**

**STUDENT TERM DATES**

Tuesday 19 April - Tuesday 19 July 2022

MAY DAY - Monday 2 May

**HALF TERM**

Monday 30 May - Friday 3 June 2022

**SUMMER HOLIDAY**