



Drayton Manor is in full swing this Autumn term. Enrichment activities, clubs, open evenings, music competitions, trips and much more are up and running. We are pleased to meet the new Year 7s, and to see students across all year groups returning to school with great enthusiasm and aspiration.

INTER-HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION



Our annual Inter-House Music Competition was a great success this year. On Tuesday 11 October and Wednesday 12 October, over 150 students from across all year groups came to the Music Department to share their love of music with staff and to classmates and to win points for their Houses. We were blown away by the talent and hard work of our students.



The competition featured many group performances and original compositions, which had been put together by the students with no teacher support.

- Congratulations to competition winners!
- Yr 7 **Mia** (7E), **Yui** (7L)
 - Yr 8 **Siraya** (8E), **Sienna** (8E), **Eliza** (8G), **Eva** (8H)
 - Yr 9 **Lucas** (9F), **Clementine** (9I)
 - Yr 10 **Kenan** (10G), **Zuzanna** (10J)
 - Yr 11 **Maja** (11F), **Sebastian** (11L)
 - Yr 12 **Benjamin** (12.7), **Archie** (12.7), **Isabelle** (12.8), **Timothy** (12.8)
 - Yr 13 **Erin** (13.2), **Marcel** (13.4), **Karina** (13.5), **Ikram** (13.7)

The festival finished on Friday October 14 with our Year 7 Inter-Tutor Singing Competition. This was another hard-fought competition, which included dance moves, shiny colourful wigs, talented and brave soloists, and lovely harmony singing. Well done to two Year 7 winning tutor groups - 7E for the best musicality and 7L for the most entertaining team. Everyone was so impressed by their beautiful voices and their great teamwork! We look forward to hearing our winning tutor groups perform in the Year 7 concert after half term.



WORLD LANGUAGES DAY

At the end of September, we celebrated World Languages Day with a range of activities to celebrate the diversity of languages in the school, and to reflect on the importance of speaking other languages.

In lessons, students learned where languages could take them in the future. Students heard about their teachers' journey with languages and about celebrities who have used languages in their career. They also learned more about the French, German and Spanish-speaking world. In Years 7 and 8, students taught each other their home languages and completed a languages 'passport' with a range of linguistic challenges relating to different subjects. Students in Year 7 have also been studying the concept of language in the abstract and have been working on a project to construct their own imagined language. In tutor time, we looked at some thought-provoking thoughts on language learning from figures including Nelson Mandela, Amy Chua, and Ludwig Wittgenstein. We also enjoyed an inter-tutor quiz about world languages across a range of topics!

Finally, we invited staff from all subjects to speak another language in part of their lesson. Thank you to all staff who embraced the spirit of World Languages Day in this way, especially our winners Ms Addouz and Mr Delgado!

NEW SCHOOL FILM

Drayton Manor staff, students and the wider school community work together to live up to the school's values. We have recently updated the school film, showcasing the vibrant and thriving life at Drayton Manor.

Please [click here](#) to watch the school film on our website.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

The mental health of our students is a priority for us at Drayton Manor. To celebrate World Mental Health Day on Monday 10 October, we organised a whole week of activities across the school.

The theme for this year's World Mental Health Day was 'Make mental health and wellbeing for all a global priority'. Together with staff, our Well Being Ambassadors designed activities for all year groups to promote acts of kindness and raise awareness of emotional health. Activities included 'Acts of Kindness' nomination for students and staff to nominate their friends who showed amazing kindness and support. A 'Positive Postbox' was set up for students to write supportive messages which will be posted to their friends and teachers.



Mr Blend, a psychotherapist, delivered an in-depth mental health awareness training session for our Well Being Ambassadors. The students loved the session, and said it was informative. They learned some valuable tips to support their friends and classmates, as well as their own emotional needs.

In addition to mental health, our Well Being Ambassadors lead other students to get involved in areas of learning and development such as environmental issues, anti-bullying and online safety. We look forward to the engaging and valuable activities they will be organising after half term.



CIVIC VIRTUE WEEK - FOOD DONATIONS FOR EALING FOOD BANK



Civic Virtue Week is a time for students to do good for others, and contribute to a better community. Food donation for Ealing Food Bank is a special activity for students to help our local community. We are happy to see our food boxes at the school are filling up with donations! Food items include rice, tinned food, milk and confectionery. Students and staff will pack the donations and send them to the Food Bank during half term. They will meet volunteers from the local food bank and learn more about their work. We will share more updates soon.

During tutor time, students are carrying out a 'Praise a Peer' exercise aimed at some positive community praise of students within their tutor groups who constantly display great Civic Virtue. Students have also been designing new House Banners. These will be judged by the House Captains before being transformed into real banners by the students in the Art department.

Our House Captains have been announced to their year groups during assembly this week. The House system is a core feature of the Civic Virtue value and these students should be celebrated for applying and being selected to be a House Captain. We will host a ceremony for the House Captains where students will receive their badges and certificates.

LEARNING FROM THE HOLOCAUST



On Thursday 13 October, two Year 13 History A-Level students - **Iman** (13.7) and **Adam** (13.5) were accompanied by **Mr Bonecki**

on a one-day visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland. The visit was part of the 'Lessons from Auschwitz Project' organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust. The project offers students the opportunity to learn about the history of the Holocaust and the role of camps such as Auschwitz-Birkenau. The project helps the students to see the real impact of the Holocaust, considering the individuals whose lives were affected by the Holocaust. They also reflect on the relevance of the Holocaust today.

Both Iman and Adam will now complete a 'Next Steps Project'. Having heard the first-hand testimony of a Holocaust survivor, viewed artefacts, heard music and visited the Auschwitz Birkenau Memorial Museum, they will share their experience with the school community to help their peers understand the Holocaust and its contemporary relevance.

TRIP TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT



In a visit to the school last year by our local MP, Right Honourable James Murray MP, Iskander (9L) interviewed **James Murray MP** for his climate change project in the last academic year. Iskander was one of 30 students who were lucky to enjoy a visit to The Houses of Parliament on Wednesday 19 October arranged by Mr Murray.

The students enjoyed a tour of the Palace of Westminster, and enjoyed seeing 'The New Dawn', a light sculpture created by Mary Branson to celebrate the right to vote for women. They were able to meet and talk to Mr Murray, who took time and care to answer all their questions. They were able to watch a live streamed session of Prime Ministers Questions, and were all given a signed copy of the Hansard transcript of the debates for the day.

Iskander told us that he and his friends thought it was one of the best school trips they had ever been on.

A-LEVEL GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

During the third week of Autumn term, Year 13 Geography students embarked on their journey to Cromer in North Norfolk

to undertake their physical and human field studies between Monday 12 September and Wednesday 14 September.



On the first day, students attended an IT workshop to learn about collecting, presenting, and analysing geographical data. They researched data collection methods and evaluated the reliability and limitations of these methods.

With gorgeous weather, students spent time outdoors on the second and third day to apply their learning. They visited Salthouse Beach, Sheringham Beach and West Runton Beach, where they collected data in order to compare the beach profiles, pebble sizes and fetch. On the final day students visited Cromer town centre. Here they learned about the socio-economic impact of urban regeneration on a predominantly ageing demographic and local businesses.

Our students showed great ambition and exemplary civic virtue during the trip, with one student even volunteering to pick up litter on the beaches while collecting data. Following the trip, students have been busy putting together findings and writing reports for their Non-Examined Assessment. We wish them the best of luck.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Throughout October, we have been celebrating Black History Month across the school. Students have enjoyed a wide range of activities, including a 'Treasure Hunt', Art competition, film screening and a book reading activity.

A highlight of the programme was a talk for Year 13 by Trevor Sterling of the Mary Seacole Trust. The charity was set up to educate the public on the life, work and achievements of the Jamaican born nurse Mary Seacole. In 2016, after a long campaign, the trust erected a statue of Mary Seacole outside St. Thomas' hospital in London. It was the first statue of a named black woman in the United Kingdom. **Percy** (13.4) was impressed by Mary Seacole's life and the amazing work by the Trust.



'We learned about Mary Seacole's life and travels, as well as her involvement in the war in Crimea. We also learned about the work done in recognition of Mary Seacole by the presenter, Trevor Sterling.'

Our students engaged enthusiastically with Mr Sterling's presentation. As October comes to a close we will be rounding off our celebrations with a series of reflective assemblies, including some special musical performances. In addition, we look forward to sharing and celebrating students' contributions to the competitions that have taken place.

PHOENIX HOUSE - WINNER OF HOUSE TROPHY



The House system plays an important role in the life of the school. From music through to tutor competitions, all areas of the school are tied into the House system. Students are encouraged to take part in the wider life of the school, to contribute to the wider community and foster a sense of fun and competitive spirit.

On 28 and 29 September, students from Phoenix House celebrated their first live House event this academic year. Phoenix House won a historic House Trophy by achieving first in House competitions, second in House Merits and third in House attendance in the past academic year. Two House Captains Keira (8H) and Hussein (11H) received the House Trophy from the Headteacher.



Students decorated the hall with House banners and colours, and 240 Year 8 to 11 students enjoyed refreshments and music and dance performances, including a dance-off by the four House mascots, performed with gusto by some of our Sixth Form students. After some intense battling, students voted for Phoenix House as the best performance in the dance-off. Well done! Special thanks to Prince (10G), Ruhi (9I) and Benjamin (12.7) for their delightful music!



CAREERS

School is, of course, about preparing our students for their futures. We are committed to ensuring our students have all the information and support they need to make the best decisions for them, and to be able to follow the career and higher education paths they aspire to. This term, we have offered a range of activities and workshops to all year groups to help them plan their futures.

Year 7 STEM Day



Building for the future of rail network in the UK! We organised a STEM Day for 120 Year 7 students from tutor group of 7E, F, G and H on Thursday 20 October to learn more about the UK's new highspeed railway HS2 and build up their interests in STEM.

The activities were run by national educational group Led by Design. Students worked in groups to create a strong and reliable tunnel structure, using their imagination and simple tools like drinking straws. The activity prompted great discussions, teamwork, and

creative designs which the students then turned into models.

As a part of the school's Careers Education, we know that our students find STEM interesting and fun. We will share updates on another session for the rest of the Year 7 tutor groups after half term.

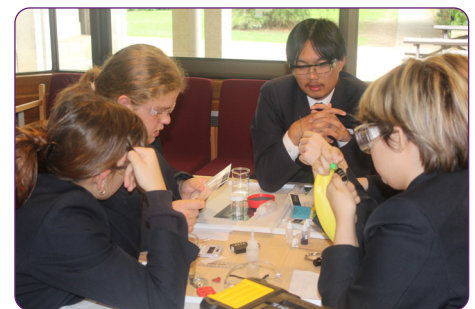
Year 9 Oxford Inspire Scholars Programme



14 Year 9 students took part in the Oxford Inspire Scholar Programme. Developed by the University of Oxford, the programme spans through Year 9, 10 and 11. Students are given opportunities to develop critical thinking skills, and nurture their interests in a wide range of subjects such as history, art and STEM.

On Monday 3 October, students attended their first Inspire Club activity after school for an hour's discussion about the Vikings. In future, they will take part in a range of activities including a virtual Summer School organised by the University of Oxford, and trips to St Johns College, University of Oxford. Additionally, there are valuable online resources that can help strengthen their critical thinking skills, as well as help available for parents and carers to enable them to support their child.

We will share more updates about our Inspire Scholars soon.



Year 11 University of Oxford Trip

We encourage all our students to have high aspirations for their academic studies, and take real pride in helping them to prepare for applying to universities and colleges in the future.



Year 11 students who aspire to apply to Oxbridge and similar Russell Group universities need to prepare for their applications as soon as possible. To help students get first-hand experience of, and valuable information about, university life, we organised a day trip to St John's College (University of Oxford) for 34 students at the beginning of the academic year. During the trip, students attended two taster sessions in Chemistry and Psychology. University is very different from school, so it was invaluable for students to experience real university lectures. They were also able to ask questions about university life, applications and interviews. Students enjoyed the trip very much and gained confidence in preparing for applications to universities.

Sixth Form

University of Bath workshops

We are pleased to announce that we are working with the University of Bath to offer a series of twice monthly workshops for Sixth Form students from September to March. Students will develop skills for writing their Higher Education applications, and learn important skillsets such as time management, critical thinking and budgeting.

Career opportunity assemblies



Sixth Form students attended assemblies organised by UpTree and Arrival Education in October who presented inclusive internship and job opportunities that all students can access. Students were excited to learn that leading companies offer opportunities for them to gain real life work experience. They also learned practical tips to outpace other applicants, such as writing compelling CVs and cover letters.

ALUMNI TALKS – AMBITION WEEK

We welcomed three successful Drayton Manor alumni – **Tieri**, **Esher** and **Simrit** back to school to talk to our students about their personal and academic journeys during lunchtimes between 14 to 16 September. Tieri achieved high grades in his A-Level

exams. He shared his experience of studying - how he realised his goals through hard work and ambition.



Esher, a current student at the London School of Economics and Political Science, encouraged our students to commit to achieving goals and aiming high. She suggested students ask teachers for help and show good Civic Virtue by helping each other to succeed.

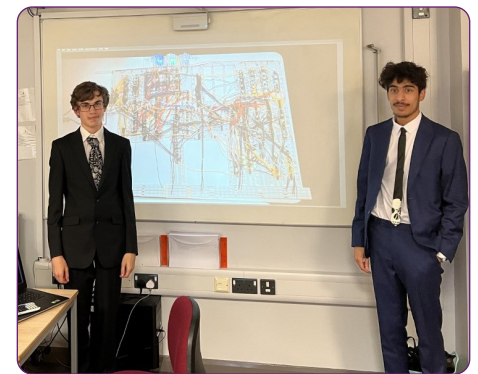
A recent graduate from the London School of Economics and Political Science, Simrit has gained a place in the graduate programme from Lloyds Bank, outpacing over 40,000 applicants from local and international

universities. Simrit shared some valuable tips for success.

Drayton Manor alumni have always been good role models for our students. We are happy to have Drayton Manor alumni visiting the school and engaging with students. If you know somebody who would be able to assist with our Careers' Speaker Programme, please contact our Careers Coordinator Mr Vvedenskiy at eve@draytonmanorhighschool.co.uk.

OPEN HOUSE FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND PARENTS

In September and October, we organised two Open House events for parents, carers and prospective students to showcase the talents of Drayton Manor students in art, sports music.



Open Evening

On Thursday 22 September, we welcomed over a thousand visitors through our doors for talks by the Headteacher, and demonstrations and exhibitions from different departments. Our guests were impressed by our students' confidence and poise.

Sixth Form Open Evening

On Tuesday 18 October, we hosted our annual Sixth Form Opening Evening. Our Sixth Form students eagerly showed 200 prospective students and their parents and carers around the school. The student leadership team gave speeches about their experience of Sixth Form and advice on life at Drayton Manor. Our guests had a wonderful evening and being treated to performances by our talented Sixth Form musicians.

SPORTS

All the sports enrichment activities have been running in full scale since the start of school term. Students from all year groups enjoy their weekly football, basketball, netball, rugby and trampoline sessions. It is a joy to see the development of their skills.



The clubs are well attended, especially the Trampoline club. The Trampoline teams are ready to compete in their first fixtures of the season soon.

The Under 16 Boys Football squad played their first-round match of the Middlesex Cup on Wednesday 8 September. Our team played with discipline and maturity against Twyford High School, taking the game to within two minutes of penalties, winning the game 3-2. Well done to all in the team for a game well played!



The Girls Football teams have had a successful start to the season. The Under 14 Girls football team started their campaign this season with an impressive 11-0 win over Ealing Fields High School in the first round of the Borough Cup competition. The top goal scorers were **Hermione** (9F) with 5 goals and **Korinna** (8H) with 2 goals. Well done to **Yui** (7L) for an outstanding debut, scoring one goal and being awarded Player of the Match. The team is looking forward to their second-round match against Featherstone next half term.

In the first round of the Middlesex Cup, the Under 15 Girls faced local team Brentside High School. Our team were impassable in defence and convincingly won the match 7-0. The Player of the Match was awarded to **Emma** (9E) for her goal scoring performance. Both teams look forward to the second-round matches after half term.

THE LATE QUEEN ELIZABETH II



Drayton Manor and its wider school community were deeply saddened by the death of Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday 8

September. We were proud to have been selected to be featured in the Official Platinum Jubilee Pageant Commemorative Album earlier this year. We reflected on her life of service with constancy and commitment.



In tribute to Queen Elizabeth II, our school flew its flag at half-mast. On Friday 16 September, the school held a one-minute silence in the piazza. 20 students from the student leadership team and staff attended the ceremony. To mark the start of the ceremony, Adam (10J) and Xingchen (11K) played a short piece of music and students laid a wreath under the flagpole.

SEE YOU AFTER HALF TERM

Thank you for your support for an excellent start to the Autumn Term. We will see you shortly after the half-term break!

Parent and Carer Bulletin

Half Term Break
24 -28 October
School will resume on Monday 31 October

EVENTS

Year 7 Music Concert
Wednesday 2 November (5pm – 5:45pm)
Hall

Awards Evening

Wednesday 9 November (6pm-8pm)
Hall (in person event – please hold the date. Parents will be written to separately.)

PARENTS EVENT

Year 11 Parents' Success Evening
Tuesday 1 November (5pm – 6:30pm)
Arrival at 4:45pm for a 5pm start
Hall (in person event - parents will be written to separately.)

BOYS FOOTBALL TRAINING IN GAMES FIELD (CANCELLED AFTER HALF TERM)

Training has been cancelled due to daylight saving (it will be darker earlier). Further arrangements will be updated soon.

SPORTS

U18 Football
MSFA Tye Cup
U18 1st XI v Elthorne Park HS
Friday 11 November
Home at 2:30pm

Please check more Boys Football Fixtures [here](#)

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Please find the schedule of activities [here](#) after half-term.

YEAR 7 MUSIC CONCERT

The Year 7 Music Concert will be held on Wednesday 2 November. This is a great opportunity for students from across the year group to share their musical talents. Registration to attend is required. Please sign up [here](#) by Monday 31 October. Please find details of the event in the letter [here](#).

Admission is free of charge. We will be grateful to receive donations through ParentPay to support the success of the Music Department. Students who attend must wear full school uniform. They must be accompanied by an adult to attend the event. Photography and filming will not be permitted. Thank you for your support.

YEAR 11

Sixth Form Application
Application to Sixth Form at Drayton Manor is now open. Year 11 parents and carers should have received an email with login details for the online application portal [here](#). Please complete the application by Monday 5 December.

Year 11 Parents' Success Evening

We will host Success Evening for Year 11 parents and carers in the School Hall on Tuesday 1 November from 5:00-6:30pm. Please arrive at 4:45pm for a prompt start of the event. This evening aims to provide Year 11 parents and carers the opportunity to support parents and carers in how to prepare their child for the forthcoming GCSE examinations. Please sign up to attend here. A letter with details of the event is available [here](#).

