



This academic year is progressing splendidly, and the excitement and anticipation within our community continues to flourish. Drayton Manor is in full swing this Autumn term, buzzing with a wide array of enrichment activities, clubs, open evenings, inspiring speeches from speakers, music competitions, trips, and much more. We are pleased to meet the new Year 7 students, and to see students across all year groups returning to school with great enthusiasm and aspiration. In this edition of our newsletter, we capture the essence of our school's dynamic environment, showcasing our innovative strides and the remarkable accomplishments of our students. From engaging in vibrant discussions to participating in cultural celebrations, we highlight our commitment to educational excellence and nurturing artistic expression. Discover these events and more as we celebrate the spirit of Drayton Manor. Happy Reading!

STEPHEN KINNOCK MP UNVEILS DRAYTON MANOR'S EXCITING NEW SIXTH FORM CENTRE



Drayton Manor High School proudly unveiled its new state-of-the-art Sixth Form Centre on October 2, 2024, with a special ceremony led by Stephen Kinnock MP, an alumnus of Drayton Manor and Minister of State for Health and Social Care. The event celebrated the modern facility's official opening, featuring spacious, light-filled rooms and vibrant greenery. Mr. Kinnock shared fond memories of his time at the school and praised its growth, urging Year 13 students to pursue academic excellence while supporting their community. His reflections and insights into his career inspired the audience, marking a milestone for the school's future.

Click [here](#) to read the full article by student reporter Mirai B.

THE MAGIC OF 'MAYBE' TOM TOUMAZIS MBE INSPIRES STUDENTS WITH LIFE LESSONS



We were excited to welcome Tom Toumazis MBE for an inspiring talk with our Year 11 and Sixth Form students. Tom, a seasoned entrepreneur with a remarkable career spanning entertainment, media, and technology, shared his personal journey - from his first job washing dishes to becoming a deputy chairman of multiple companies and a respected public speaker. Tom's TedTalks, like "The Art of the Nudge" and "Maybe", are well-known for their thought-provoking insights, and his visit to our school was no exception. Click [here](#) to read more about Tom's excellent visit to Drayton Manor!

DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES EXCELLENT EXAM RESULTS



We are proud to celebrate the exceptional achievements of our students in the 2024 GCSE and A-level exam series. The school's provisional progress score continues to place it in the top 8% of state schools and 52% of A-level grades were A* to B. These outstanding results not only highlight the hard work, determination, and resilience of our students but also the unwavering support from families and the dedication of our teachers. Reflecting the school's commitment

to academic excellence and holistic development, our students excelled across all subjects, setting a high benchmark for future cohorts. Many of our students have earned places at prestigious universities, including King's College London, where they will pursue a diverse range of disciplines such as Medicine, Chemical Engineering, Biomedical Science, Artificial Intelligence, Midwifery, History, and International Development. These impressive outcomes mark a significant milestone in our school's history, and we extend our heartfelt congratulations to all our students as they embark on the next chapter of their academic and professional journeys. We encourage our alumni to stay connected and take advantage of future opportunities by joining the network at alumni@draytonmanorhighschool.co.uk.

READATHON

We are pleased to announce that Drayton Manor High School has been recognised as one of "Read for Good's" Best Participants, a prestigious accolade that highlights our long-standing commitment to fostering a culture of reading. Since schools began participating in the Read for Good initiative in 1984, Drayton Manor has consistently embraced the challenge with passion and determination. Our recent readathon, part of the annual fundraising initiative, saw students and staff come together once again, raising an impressive £171.52. This latest contribution brings our total funds raised over recent years to an extraordinary £7,233, achieved through 15 readathons. This achievement not only reflects our commitment to reading but also demonstrates the generosity and dedication of our school community, who have supported this cause for over two decades. To read more about this fantastic achievement please click this [link](#).





CALADRIUS HOUSE SUPPER: A CELEBRATION OF UNITY AND ACHIEVEMENT

We recently hosted the 2023-2024 Caladrius House Supper on October 1, an evening that was filled with celebration and pride. The event honoured the achievements of the Caladrius House, with students and staff coming together to reflect on a year of remarkable accomplishments. The sapphire-themed decorations, live classical music, and delicious high tea spread created an atmosphere of unity and joy. Highlights included captivating performances, the presentation of blue-ribbon badges, and the uplifting words from the Headteacher, Ms. Mills. The evening culminated in the triumphant lifting of the House Cup, marking a memorable afternoon for all.



LUCKY SEVEN FOR DRAYTON MANOR AT THE U18S FOOTBALL MATCH!



Drayton Manor High School celebrated an exhilarating victory in their U18 football match against St Benedict's Independent School on October 9, securing the trophy with an impressive seven goals. Despite a challenging start and a waterlogged pitch, the team displayed remarkable resilience and skill. The match saw three teams from each school, with the second and third groups making key substitutions at halftime. 2nd XI captain Karim confidently predicted a comeback, and his prediction came true when Zakaria netted the decisive goal in the second half, clinching a hard-fought 1-0 victory. This triumph sets a positive tone for what promises to be an exciting season—here's to many more wins! After the match, Drayton Manor hosted a celebratory dinner in their dining hall, where

the St Benedict's teams joined for a trophy presentation. Both captains gave speeches reflecting on the match, adding a memorable close to the day's events.

RECYCLING WEEK WITH THE ECO WARRIORS



On September 19, students from the Eco-Warriors club, along with other enthusiastic participants, took part in a lunchtime litter pick to enhance their school environment. Demonstrating fantastic civic virtue, they dedicated 30 minutes of their lunch break to clean up the campus, turning the activity into a fun and engaging experience. The positive response from participants has led to requests for this initiative to become an ongoing event, highlighting the students' commitment to environmental stewardship.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YEAR 12 STUDENT ESMA!

After careful consideration, we are thrilled to announce that Year 12 student, Esma's design was chosen for its striking interpretation of the Phoenix, balanced composition, use of space, and imaginative approach in portraying the spirit of Drayton Manor. Her design will soon take shape in a beautiful, permanent display at our school. As part of an exciting new project, students were invited to submit designs for the unique opportunity to contribute to a new art installation on our new Sixth Form Building. The challenge was to create a design that not only captured the spirit of the school's Phoenix, but also showcased strong composition, originality, creativity, and artistic vision. The design will be handmade in 3D ceramic tiles, crafted by a professional artist with the support of students.



DELIGHTFUL AFTERNOON TEA AT THE SIXTH FORM CAFÉ

Sixth Form students enjoyed a delightful afternoon tea at the brand-new Sixth Form Café on September 4. The gathering provided a wonderful opportunity for students to unwind and connect with friends while savouring a scrumptious selection of freshly made sandwiches, rich hot chocolate, and mouthwatering cookies. The inviting atmosphere of the café made for a perfect backdrop for relaxation and socialising, and students left with smiles, having celebrated the new space with delicious treats.



CELEBRATING THE INTER-HOUSE MUSIC FESTIVAL!



The House Music Festival on October 8 and 9 was a brilliant celebration of talent, with students from all year groups performing as instrumentalists, singers, rappers, and beatboxers. Participants earned points for their houses, and Griffin House triumphed overall with 784 points, followed by Phoenix, Pegasus, and Caladrius.



Year group winners for Best Musical Performance were Adam (Year 7E), Arlo (Year 8K), Kate (Year 9H), Astrid (Year 10F), Toby (Year 11I), and Ariana (12.1). Most Entertaining winners included Albie (7I), Josh (7I), Delilah



(7J), and Florence (7K), Isabelle (8J), Mia (9E), David (9H), Eloise (9K), Nico (9K), and Yui (9L), Selma (10G), Sienna (10K), and Suraya (10E), Lucas (11F), and Daniel (12.3). It was a fantastic showcase of musical talent, with every performer contributing to a memorable event!

YEAR 7 INTER-TUTOR SINGING COMPETITION



The Year 7 inter-tutor singing competition took place on October 14 and was an unforgettable celebration of talent! During Period 6, students filled the hall with vibrant performances, showcasing an impressive array of songs that energised the atmosphere. After registering in their usual lessons, they were escorted to the hall for their moment in the spotlight. The excitement was palpable, with classmates cheering and supporting one another in an electrifying environment. Congratulations to tutor groups 7F and 7H, who emerged as the winners of this fantastic event!

YEAR 7 CONCERT



The Year 7 Concert held on October 23, was a spectacular musical event that captivated both performers and their families. Attended by proud Year 7 parents in the evening, the concert showcased the incredible talents of our students, featuring a diverse range of performances that highlighted their hard work and dedication. From instrumental solos to group ensembles, each act brought an exciting energy to the stage, leaving the audience thoroughly entertained. The evening was a wonderful celebration of music and community, reflecting the remarkable progress our Year 7 students have made in their musical journeys so far with lots more to come! After the half term, we will be sharing a photo gallery with all the amazing performances.



MOZARTISTS CAST WORKSHOP

On the morning of October 3, 30 Year 9 students travelled to the Church of the Holy Innocents in Hammersmith for an exciting workshop with the cast of the Mozartists' upcoming performance of The Marriage of Figaro. After a lively warm-up, we enjoyed a live rehearsal where the talented opera singers and conductors shared fascinating insights into the characters, their motivations, and the emotional journeys that accompany their roles. We engaged in creative freeze-frame activities to delve into the opera's main themes and the complex emotions of the characters. Students even had the chance to sing along with one of Figaro's iconic arias and participate on stage during an ensemble scene! This immersive experience truly brought opera to life, making it accessible and enjoyable for everyone, regardless of their background or previous experience. We can't wait to watch the performance on October 21!



MOZARTISTS PERFORMANCE OF THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

Twenty-two Year 9 students who have already participated in two workshops with the Mozartists had the incredible opportunity to watch a full Mozart opera at the prestigious Cadogan Hall in London.



Before the performance, three musicians from the orchestra gave an engaging talk, introducing us to their Classical instruments, and our students even got to play a cello from the 1760s! While the opera's plot was a bit tricky to follow, the workshops had prepared us well, and we thoroughly enjoyed the twists and turns as the characters tried to outsmart one another. The live performance on instruments Mozart himself might have heard was truly breathtaking. We can't wait for our final workshop, where we'll compose our own music inspired by the experience!



YEAR 7 LUNCHTIME CONCERT SUCCESS

Every half-term, our school comes alive with music as we host a Lunchtime Concert for students, and this week's performance was one to remember! On Thursday, 24 October, our incredible Year 7 musicians took the stage to share their talent with peers and teachers alike. The concert hall buzzed with excitement as each student performed their well-prepared pieces, captivating the audience with their passion and skill. Not only did our Year 7 students impress with their musical abilities,



but they also earned stamps for their school passports—a proud reminder of their active participation. Thank you to everyone who joined to support these young performers and help make the event a fantastic experience for all!



INSPIRING MINDS: YEAR 8 AND 9 WELCOME GUEST SPEAKER TREVOR STERLING!



On October 18, Year 8 and 9 students had the privilege of attending an inspiring talk by Trevor Sterling during Periods 1 and 2. Mr. Sterling, a Senior Partner and Head of Major Trauma at Moore Barlow Lawyers, as well as the Chair of the Mary Seacole Trust, shared his extensive knowledge and experience from his work on groundbreaking cases, including a landmark case in the House of Lords. He also discussed his dedication to promoting diversity and inclusion both within and beyond the legal sector. The event was attended by all Year 8 and 9 students, along with student members of the leadership team, and any available staff were invited to join in the hall to witness this engaging presentation.

ETHIC OF EXCELLENCE AND SPIRIT OF ENDEAVOUR AWARDS



This half-term we had the honour of hosting the first Ethic of Excellence and Spirit of Endeavour Awards of the academic year, recognising students for their outstanding effort and achievements. These awards are given to those who have demonstrated commendable dedication over a sustained period, typically a minimum of half a term. We applaud all the awardees for their remarkable contributions and inspire others to strive for excellence in their endeavours.

HALF TERM SPORTS UPDATE

It's been an exciting and successful period for DMHS sports teams! The Year 7 girls showed determination in their football match against Greenford, despite a loss, on this occasion. Meanwhile, our U16 football team triumphed in the Middlesex Cup, winning both Round 1 (3-1 vs The Green School) and Round 2 on penalties against Brentside. The U15s also had a strong 3-0 win in the Ealing Cup. The U18 football teams continue to shine with multiple wins, including the 1st team's 5-1 victory over Benedicts and a narrow 2-1 win against Greenford. In basketball, the Year 7 & 8 team dominated William Perkin 36-6, and the Year 8 boys football team celebrated a 2-1 win against Twyford. Lastly, DMHS placed an impressive 3rd overall in the Ealing Schools Cross Country.



YEAR 13 WORKSHOP AT SG KLEINWORT HAMBROS

Selected Year 13 students recently enjoyed an inspiring morning at SG Kleinwort Hambros, a leading private banking and wealth

management company, in Canary Wharf. The workshop introduced students to various careers in the business industry, including Law, HR, and IT, and featured a valuable speed-networking session with employees from different departments. Students also participated in a session aimed at preparing them to apply for SGKH's prestigious work experience programme. It was an enriching and exciting opportunity that provided invaluable insight into the world of business.



YEAR 9 WICKES CHALLENGE



On Friday, 11 October, we were thrilled to welcome a team from Wickes who delivered an engaging workshop on the importance of wellbeing. Students had the exciting opportunity to design and market their own section of the school using Wickes products. The competition was incredibly close, and two finalist teams now have the chance to present their renovation ideas at Wickes' Head Office in Watford. They will compete for a chance to win £2,000 to bring their designs to life and transform a part of our school.





BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Congratulations to all our talented Drayton Manor artists who participated in the Black History Month Portrait Contest! In first place, taking the top spot is Isaac from 7F, recognised for his impressive watercolour study featuring several prominent artists. We will share photos of the entries in a gallery soon! Our third-place winner is Mustafa from Year 7F, who created a brilliant portrait of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. In second place, we have Rhea from Year 8H with her dazzling rendition of Beyoncé. We had a fantastic number of entries, and everyone who participated received merits.

EPPING FOREST ECOLOGY TRIP

Our Year 13 students recently had the opportunity to explore Epping Forest as part of their Ecology studies. Over two days, they engaged in hands-on fieldwork, including habitat surveys, species identification, and ecological data collection. This experience not only deepened their understanding of biodiversity and conservation but also allowed them to apply classroom learning in a real-world environment. The students showed great enthusiasm and curiosity, making the trip both educational and enjoyable.

NEW SCIENTIST LIVE

On October 14, 26 Year 9 students had an exciting day at the New Scientist Live event at the EXCEL venue in London. The bustling atmosphere was filled with a wide array of science-themed exhibits, including a Royal Air Force jet, life-sized dinosaur puppets, mini planetariums, and even edible insects—two brave students gave them a try! Students also attended captivating lectures on topics like the 'Universe', 'Mind and Body', 'Our Planet', and the 'Future', held across four stages. It was an inspiring and educational experience for all involved!

INSPIRING SPEAKERS VISITED SIXTH FORM THIS HALF TERM

This half term, our Sixth Form students had the opportunity to engage with a series of dynamic speakers and programmes designed to inspire and equip them for their

future endeavours. The Arrival Investment Programme kicked off the lineup, offering a business investment initiative where students received professional coaching from seasoned business leaders. This programme aimed to cultivate entrepreneurial skills and provide insights into the world of investment. Thereafter, Giving Time Charity engaged students in volunteering opportunities while also providing professional coaching.



This initiative encouraged students to understand the importance of giving back to the community while developing valuable skills through mentorship. The Charity Den presented a unique chance for students to brainstorm and pitch their own charity ideas. Participants not only developed their concepts but also had the opportunity to secure a £1,000 donation to kickstart their charitable initiatives, empowering them to make a real impact in the community. Another exciting project, Wings of Hope (WOHAA), focused on raising funds for schools in India and Kenya. This charity project emphasised the importance of education and encouraged students to act in support of global causes.



In collaboration with Brunel University and the Metropolitan Police, students learned about various degree and apprenticeship opportunities, helping them make informed decisions about their educational paths and future careers. Finally, the launch of OxBridge Tutors provided a tutoring program specifically for Year 12 and 13 students, preparing them for entry into top universities around the world. This initiative aims to enhance academic performance and bolster students' university applications. With such a diverse range of speakers and programs, this

half term proved to be an inspiring journey for our Sixth Form students, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in their future careers and make a meaningful impact in society.

YEAR 7 OPEN EVENING



On Thursday, 26 September 2024, we hosted our highly anticipated Year 7 Open Evening, welcoming prospective students and their families to experience the school's vibrant atmosphere and exceptional offerings. The event provided an inspiring glimpse into the diverse academic departments and enriching extracurricular activities that define Drayton Manor's commitment to ambition, character, and civic virtue. Highlights included the English department's captivating Macbeth display, language activities featuring French, Spanish, and Latin, and the Drama department's lively A Midsummer Night's Dream scenes. The Art, PE, Music, and Science departments also engaged visitors with hands-on activities, from creative showcases and sports games to musical experiments and thrilling science demonstrations.



The evening embodied the school's nurturing environment, where every child is encouraged to explore their interests and talents, setting the stage for their future learning journey.

SUCCESSFUL OPEN EVENING WELCOMES FUTURE SIXTH FORM STUDENTS

We were delighted to host our Open Evening on September 17, a special occasion that warmly welcomed prospective Sixth Form students and their parents to the school. It was wonderful to see many of our current students assisting during the



event, showcasing the vibrant spirit of our community. We sincerely appreciate the support and permission from parents that made their participation possible. The evening provided an excellent opportunity for future students to explore what Drayton Manor has to offer, and we look forward to welcoming them to our Sixth Form!



A HEARTFELT APPRECIATION FOR OUR DEDICATED PTA

A massive thank you to our incredible PTA for their dedication and hard work this term! Thanks to their fantastic efforts, our recent Curry and Quiz Night was a huge hit, raising an impressive £200 for the school. We couldn't be more grateful for their support—and for everyone who joined the fun! Stay tuned as we will be sharing details of the next exciting PTA event on our website, soon!

UPCOMING EVENTS

YEAR 11 PARENTS EVENING

This important event will provide you with information on your child's upcoming examinations and the programme of support that is being offered in school, as well as the ways that you can support at home. Please click on this link to know more.

AWARDS EVENING

Please save the date for our Awards Evening on Wednesday, November 13, from 6pm to 8pm in the School's Main Hall. Invitations will be sent after the half-term break with further details.



Artworks from Drayfest - Summer 2024