



• THE DRAYTON CONNECTION

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



Message from the Head

As Head Teacher, I am incredibly proud to launch the first publication of our wonderful new newsletter, marking a significant milestone in our school's history.

As we approach our 95th anniversary, this is a fantastic opportunity to reflect on the remarkable contributions of our alumni, who have played a vital role in shaping the school's legacy over the decades, whilst also celebrating the significant achievements of our current students.

Through this newsletter, we celebrate the enduring connections and achievements of our alumni community, past and present. We look forward to sharing stories, memories, and milestones as we continue to grow together.

Mrs L Mills
Head Teacher



Drayton Manor's New Sixth Form Centre: A Step into the Future

We proudly unveiled our state-of-the-art Sixth Form Centre on October 2, 2024, in a ceremony led by Stephen Kinnock MP, an esteemed alumnus and current Minister of State for Health and Social Care.

Mr. Kinnock shared fond memories of his school days, praised Drayton Manor's remarkable growth, and encouraged students to excel academically while giving back to their communities.



The new facility, with its light-filled spaces and modern design, marks an exciting new chapter for the school, creating an inspiring environment for students to thrive.

This addition reflects Drayton Manor's ongoing commitment to excellence and innovation—a milestone all alumni can celebrate. Want the full story? Read student journalist Mirai B.'s detailed report [\[here\]](#).

Festive Creativity Shone Bright with our Christmas Card Competition Winners



We were thrilled to celebrate the winners of our annual Christmas Card Competition, along with the Ealing Council Christmas Card Competition! Bianca from 8F impressed everyone with her stunning design of St. Mary's Church in Hanwell, which was chosen as the winning card from hundreds of entries across the Borough.

Jasmin from 9K and Oishikha from 9I also received special recognition for their collaborative Christmas scene, perfectly capturing the holiday spirit.



The designs, that were created during Art Club, showcased the exceptional talent of our students. Awards were presented by Councillor Peter Mason and other distinguished guests, making it a proud moment for our school community.

The Class of 2023–2024 Return for a Joyful Reunion

On December 16, 2024, we welcomed back the Class of 2023-2024 for a Certificate Collection Evening—a heartwarming event that brought together former students and staff for the first time since Year 13.

The atmosphere was electric as alumni reunited with friends, shared laughs, and exchanged updates about their journeys. From exciting university experiences to first steps into the working world, their stories were a testament to the determination and ambition nurtured during their time at Drayton Manor.

Teachers beamed with pride as they heard about their former students' successes, with exciting conversations filling the room. It was an evening of celebration, connection, and reflection—a reminder of the lasting impact of the Drayton Manor community. To the Class of 2023-2024: we're so proud of you and can't wait to see what's next on your incredible paths!

We are also grateful that so many of you have offered to come back to Drayton Manor to speak with current students and we look forward to welcoming you back through the doors very soon!



A HEARTWARMING RETURN – MR GRANT VISITS DRAYTON MANOR



On November 22, we had the privilege of welcoming Mr Grant, a teacher at Drayton Manor for an impressive 34 years, back to the school.

What began as a brief visit turned into a meaningful and nostalgic afternoon of tea, conversation, and shared memories. It was especially touching when an old student and current member of staff, who had received Mr Grant's help 45 years ago, stopped by to thank him personally.

The visit was a wonderful chance to reflect on the school's journey, with old photos sparking fond memories. Mr Grant was also presented with a Draytonian Award, the perfect end to a truly special day. He was taken on a tour around the school, unlocking doors to showcase the many developments over the years.

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



A Bold New Chapter – Our New Sixth Form Centre Opens Its Doors



The wait is over! Our state-of-the-art Sixth Form Centre is officially open, and it is already transforming our students' experience. Designed with modern Sixth Form life in mind, this cutting-edge facility offers a perfect balance of spaces for focused study, collaborative work, and much-needed relaxation.

The Centre also serves as a vibrant hub for academic exploration, technology integration, and business activities, giving students a glimpse of the innovative environments they will encounter at top universities and leading companies.

Early feedback from Year 12 and Year 13 students has been overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the inspiring atmosphere and dynamic features of the building. The project, brought to life through the tireless efforts of our Facilities and Premises team in collaboration with skilled architects and contractors, reflects our vision for preparing students for bright futures.

We look forward to welcoming alumni and parents to visit this incredible space during upcoming events. Take a sneak peek inside the new Sixth Form Centre by watching our video [\[here\]](#).

Drayton Manor's 'Going for Gold' Basketball Programme: Shaping Champions

We are excited to announce the launch of Drayton Manor's prestigious 'Going for Gold' Basketball Programme, an initiative designed to build on the success of our Senior and Junior teams. After their impressive victory in the Ealing Borough League and earning gold and silver medals at the London Youth Games, this programme aims to take our basketball talent to even greater heights.

Developed by our dedicated PE teacher, Mr. Black, the 'Going for Gold' initiative focuses on enhancing both offensive and defensive skills, preparing our students for success on regional and national stages. Fifteen talented students have been selected for this exclusive programme, providing them with the opportunity to develop athletically and personally.

As we continue to support our students' growth, we are excited to watch them thrive in this prestigious opportunity.



Year 7 Scholarship Programme: Achieving Academic Excellence



Encore: Competing Again This Year!

Encore, our talented student choir, is gearing up to compete once again in the Borough competition this year! After last year's dazzling performances, they are ready to showcase their skills and bring pride to Drayton Manor.

Our talented musicians took the stage at the ENCORE Ealing Music Service Battle of the Bands and brought home an impressive victory! A group of 14 students competed against other local Ealing schools at the Ealing Christian Centre in Northfields, where they performed on a large stage with professional lighting and sound.

Despite it being their first time competing, the group's performance stood out, earning them the winning spot in the competition. The high standard of musicianship was praised by the judges, including Neil Phillips, who commended the skill and passion displayed by all Drayton Manor performers.

This victory marks a major achievement for our students, and we look forward to seeing them continue to rise to the occasion in future musical challenges. Alumni supporters, stay tuned for further updates!



We're excited to share that Year 7 students recently took part in Taster Activities, a fantastic opportunity to explore their chosen disciplines and demonstrate their dedication to academic and personal growth. These activities allowed students to engage in hands-on learning, receive expert guidance, and showcase their passion for joining our prestigious Scholars Programme.

The programme offers scholarships across a wide range of subjects, with a particular focus on Maths, PE, and Music. As part of the process, students expressed their enthusiasm and explained how they would represent Drayton Manor in their selected fields. This initiative is just the beginning, and we look forward to updating you on how our budding scholars continue to excel!



95-Year Celebration: Sign Up to Join Our Alumni Network!

This year marks a monumental milestone for Drayton Manor High School—95 years of shaping young minds and fostering lifelong connections! As part of the celebration, we're inviting all alumni to reconnect and join our growing alumni network. Stay updated on special events, share your stories, and be a part of the legacy. Don't miss out—sign up today by clicking this link and help us commemorate this incredible milestone!



Share Your Memories – Send Us Your Photos

We are calling on our alumni to help bring Drayton Manor's history to life! If you have treasured photos from your school days, we would love to see them!

Whether it is a class trip, a sports victory, or a snap with old friends, we would love to include them in our 95-Year Celebration.

Send in your photos and be part of our shared story by emailing to draytonians@draytonmanorhighschool.co.uk.

Join Our Governing Body

From time to time, we seek passionate and dedicated individuals to join our Governing Body and help shape the future of our school.

If you are interested in serving as a Governor when a vacancy arises, we would love to hear from you. To be considered for future opportunities, please send a copy of your CV to draytonians@draytonmanorhighschool.co.uk.

We maintain a record of potential candidates, and your expertise and commitment could make a real impact on our school community!

Alumni Inspire the Next Generation



In recent weeks, we were proud to welcome back three accomplished alumni who shared their journeys from school to career success. Pedro da Conceição (Law, University of Exeter) spoke to Year 11 students about the importance of extracurricular activities and the transition to university. Dr James Bolagi (Imperial College) and Hadi Ahmed (Data Science) inspired students with insights into scientific research and data science careers, leading engaging workshops for selected students. It was incredible to see our former students giving back and motivating the next generation. [Click here](#) to read their stories in detail.

Inspire the Next Generation!

We deeply value and are incredibly grateful for our alumni community, many of whom generously return to our school and share their time, inspire our students, and offer valuable insights from their professional journeys.

If you would like to contribute by hosting a small group workshop or speaking at an assembly, we'd love to hear from you. Your experiences have the power to leave a lasting impact on the next generation of Drayton Manor students.

Let us know if you are interested. We would be delighted to welcome you back!

