



In this eventful half term, we are immensely proud of the exceptional achievements of our students in their studies and extracurricular activities. They have worked very hard and demonstrated the school's ethos of Ambition, Character and Civic Virtue.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 'LET'S CONNECT'

Every year, Drayton Manor celebrates Children's Mental Health Week with a series of events for students, teachers and parents. This year's theme was 'Let's Connect', and we all enjoyed the wellbeing focused events between 6 and 10 February.

Talk by Clare Balding



On Tuesday 7 February, renowned sports broadcaster, journalist and author Clare Balding visited Drayton Manor to speak to our Year 8 students and members of the student leadership team. Citing personal experiences and real-life stories of outstanding athletes like rising star Emma Raducanu, Ms Balding discussed a range of ways for students to build up confidence in order to overcome stress and fear. By staying focused and being creative, Ms Balding believed students could go above and beyond in life.



Before the talk, students read Ms Balding's book entitled 'Fall Off, Get Back, Keep Going'. Students delighted in this in-person opportunity with Ms Balding and asked thoughtful questions about her journalism careers and how she coped with failures. Shortly after the assembly, Ms Balding held an interactive workshop with over 150 student leaders. Students shared their views on being good leaders, best practices of working with their peers and personal encounters of leading a sports team, sky diving and interviewing an MP. Ms Balding was impressed by our students' confidence and enthusiasm in their learning. Students enjoyed the talk very much and they learned a lot from Ms Balding.

Lunchtime Music for Students



Our popular lunchtime music for students is back! The Sixth Form Band – Ben (12.7), Erin (13.2) and Karina (13.5) entertained students on Tuesday 7 February in an outdoor concert on the piazza. Erin sang one of her own compositions called 'Unsatisfied' while Karina performed a piece from Musical Theatre. The music was a big hit with our students, and there will be more lunchtime music performances after half term. After school hours, the music department organised taster lessons in various musical instruments. Led by Sixth Form students, students played ukuleles the first time with some students wanting to take up playing a new instrument.

Mental Health and Wellbeing session for Parents and Carers



We organised a mental health and well-being session for parents on the evening of Thursday 9 February. Our Wellbeing Ambassadors and staff delivered a short presentation on some online safety research they undertook, and shared information about the support across the school for our students to support their wellbeing.

Nature Walk

We know that spending time with nature can improve emotional health. The PE department organised a lunchtime nature walk with over 70 Year 7 to 10 students to the Hanwell Bunny Park on Tuesday 7 February and Friday 10 February. The sun came through, despite a foggy start, as students began to walk to the Maze at the Parks. Some students competed to be first to the centre of the maze, while others chose to walk more mindfully, being mindful of their steps and using their senses to feel grounded in nature.



**Movie Night**

On Wednesday 8 February after school, over 20 students gathered in the Hall to watch 'Inside Out' as part of Children's Mental Week activities. Students found the movie entertaining and funny, and a good way to understand about the interaction between emotions and wellbeing.

Paperchains for Wellbeing

'The world is full of love. We have your back!'



During lunchtime in Children's Mental Health Week, Wellbeing Ambassadors helped students create colourful paperchains which will be used to decorate the Hall with messages of kindness and blessings for their peers, teachers and family members.

GERMAN EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

On Tuesday 31 January and Thursday 2 February, 40 students from our partner school Gymnasium an der Gartenstraße in Mönchengladbach, Germany visited Drayton Manor as part of the new exchange partnership with the German school. Year 10 students who are studying German welcomed the German students, showing themselves to be excellent ambassadors for the school. They introduced their German peers to the school routines, and showed them different facilities in Drayton Manor, such as library, music and sports. Drayton Manor and German students attended a lesson together in which they discussed, in English and German, what their ideal schools could be like. This was a wonderful opportunity for them to appreciate the similarities and differences in schooling between the two countries. German students had a lesson in Classics with Mr Foxall. They offered some invaluable views on learning, noting the interesting discussions between teachers and students in class. Towards the end of the visit, the German students took part in pop quizzes and four students were awarded treats and Drayton Manor water bottles.

Through participating in exchange programmes such as this, our students can improve their language skills and broaden their experiences with people from a diverse range of cultures and backgrounds.

**DIGITAL AWARENESS**

On Wednesday 8 February and Thursday 9 February, our Digital Ambassadors organised a lunchtime 'Genius Bar' in the Library, offering one-to-one digital wellbeing sessions for students. Our ambassadors and students discussed best practices on preventing malware and bots, password protection and guides for good use of social media channels. The sessions were very popular, with a long line of students waiting to speak to our ambassadors.

OXBRIDGE OFFERS

In January, we received great news from students who have applied to study at the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge. Five students received conditional offers from both universities and one of them received a conditional offer.

University of Oxford

Warsame French and Beginners' Portuguese
Zahra Physics

University of Cambridge

Orla History & Politics
Molly Asian and Middle Eastern Studies with Hebrew and Spanish
Iman Archaeology

The students were very grateful for the support throughout the application process, with countless practice interviews and constant words of encouragement. We will be sharing more news of university offers next term.

Congratulations to our students for their achievements and we wish them all the best in the forthcoming A level exams.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Every year, the UK comes together on 27 January to remember the millions of people who suffered or died during the Holocaust. The local commemoration was led by the Mayor of Ealing, Councillor Mohinder Midha, and other representatives from across the borough at Earling Town hall. The King's local



representative, Deputy Lieutenant Richard Kornicki, also attended.

15 Draytonians from Year 9 and 10 joined with students from two other schools in Ealing and residents at the ceremony at Walpole Park. Three Drayton Manor students – **Hermione (9F)**, **Hussain (10K)** and **Rahma (10E)** read out their own Holocaust pledges in front of the assembled dignitaries.

The dignitaries were extremely impressed and had great conversations with the students.



Back at school, students enjoyed a healthy breakfast in a celebration hosted by the Head of Humanities and History to acknowledge the students for their efforts and contributions towards the Holocaust Memorial Day event.

FARADAY STEM CHALLENGE



On Wednesday 25 January, six Year 8 students - **Alicja (8G)**, **Mirai (8L)**, **Aamir (8G)**, **Maha (8L)**, **Aeronwen (8J)** and **Yahya (8L)** represented Drayton Manor in the annual Faraday STEM Challenge held in Notting Hill High School.

This year's competition asked students to invent something that could be used in a Vertiport, an area of land, water, or structure

used or intended to be used for the landing and take-off of VTOL (Vertical Take-off and landing) aircraft. The structure needed to be environmentally friendly, easy to use and safe. With limited time, students worked as a team and decided to create a safety tower that would alert people once a drone had landed on the vertiport using a light and a buzzer. They created a pressure pad and connected it to both a piezo buzzer and LED using a parallel circuit. They gave the safety tower a 'door', using a 90-degree servo motor attached to correx, that allowed an operator to open when a knob turned on.

After students finished the protocol, they did a circuit test of the buzzer and LED to demonstrate that their model actually worked. Although students did not win the competition, they really enjoyed the process and found it very rewarding.

PUBLIC SPEAKING CHALLENGE



Well done **Kiara (10F)** for the excellent performance in the Ealing regional final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge on Wednesday 11 January! Kiara was selected to represent Drayton Manor in the regional final. She attended two workshops in school with 40 other Year 10 students. In the workshops, students learned how to improve their public speaking skills and got to perform their speeches in front of their peers, teacher and a tutor from the Speakers Trust Foundation. The Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge is a national competition that builds up young people's confidence in public speaking. Students need to pass through some intense selection processes in their schools and borough region before they can enter the grand final of the Challenge.

Before attending the regional final, Kiara was given the opportunity to improve her skills further with an online workshop and a dedicated session on the day. She worked alongside nine other Year 10 students who had been chosen by their respective schools in the Ealing Borough.

On the competition day, Kiara performed a three-minute speech entitled 'Moody

Teenagers', in front of ten esteemed judges and a supportive crowd of around 100 people. Towards the end of the competition, Kiara met the Mayor of Ealing, Cllr Mohinder Midha and other assorted guests.

We are extremely proud of Kiara for delivering her speech in such a fantastic manner. She truly embodied the school's ethos of Ambition, Character and Civic Virtue.

SHARING LOVE FOR BOOKS



Congratulations to all who took part in the Book Swap event on Tuesday 24 January! Over 100 students visited the library, where books were donated by students and parents, and swapped, with all thrilled by their newly chosen books. The students were delighted to be offered complimentary sweets, and there was even a surprise visit from the school Phoenix!

House Captains, **Peter (8K)** and **Molly (13.1)** planned and organised the event, to spread the joy of reading, and to provide their fellow students with the chance to take new books home for free.

Alongside the book swap was a raffle, in which three lucky students received big prizes including book vouchers. All participants also gained points for their respective Houses – five points for attending and an additional point for every book they swapped.

Peter and Molly were ecstatic to see so many students enjoying the book swap. They are planning for the next whole school event, so stay tuned.

WORK EXPERIENCE AT DISNEY+



Two Year 12 students, **Omar (12.8)** and **Reannah (12.1)**, represented Drayton Manor



at a two-week experience programme offered by Disney+, the world's top home entertainment streaming operator from The Walt Disney Company. Omar and Reannah stood out among 30 applicants at Drayton Manor. They succeeded in applying for the job and worked with other Sixth Form students across the country in Disney+ in October last year.

Reannah wanted to explore whether the media and creative field is for her, even though she has been studying to be a veterinarian. At the beginning of the week, Reannah was responsible for creating a promotion plan for a movie which is due to be released in 2023. She created a presentation with other groupmates and presented their promotion plan in front of the Disney+ management team.

The Disney+ marketing team was impressed by Omar and Reannah's performance. The students were engaging with their peers and the company's staff. Reannah showcased exceptional presentation skills and Omar offered incredible and creative ideas for the team. They said the students should be proud of themselves!

Reannah really felt her Disney dreams come true. She praised the Disney+ team for acknowledging her and other students as equals to the full-time staff in the company. She enjoyed the work experience very much.

CAREERS TALK AND TRIPS



On Friday 20 January, a representative from the University of Exeter came to speak to Year 13 students about funding for Higher Education study. They received first-hand information about studying at the university, and financing options such as bursaries and scholarships. Students enjoyed the talk, and said they would like to attend more workshops of this kind in the coming school terms.



Students are encouraged to explore different careers options. On Friday 3 February, Year 13 students attended a careers talk about apprenticeships. They were told about ways of looking for apprenticeship opportunities, tips for writing resumes and cover letters and different types of apprenticeships available. Student can decide if they want to work full-time or part-time while doing full-time study in universities and colleges.

STEM at Queen Mary, University of London



Year 12 students studying STEM subjects visited 'Centre of the Cell' at Queen Mary, University of London on Monday 6 February and Thursday 9 February. While attending a career workshop and a trial lecture entitled 'Ingenious Genes', students gained a better understanding of career options in the Science and Health industry as well as learning opportunities in the university. Students spoke with a microbiologist who shared how she made her way through her career. They found the visit very helpful and said that it helped them make informative plans for their future careers.

SPORTS

Middlesex Cross Country Championships



The Middlesex Cross Country Championships took place on Thursday 26 January. Five students represented Drayton Manor as part

of the Ealing team. Notable performances and congratulations go to the following students:

Naimah (9F) – second runner up in the Year 9/10 Girls' division

Sofia (7G) – fifth place in the Year 7/8 Girls' division

Well done and thank you to all who took part!

Netball

All teams have been on training sessions each week, and are working hard to prepare for a handful of matches that determine the final positions on the League tables.

The Senior Girls have only lost once so far in the League and have one match left to play against Elthorne Park.

The Year 9 team is currently unbeaten in the League, and the Year 7 team secured their first win of the season.

The Borough Tournaments for Year 7 and Year 8 are coming up in the next few weeks. Good luck!

Boys Basketball



The Junior Boys are representing Ealing in this year's London Youth Games competition. They are through to the second round and will play against The Green School for Boys next week.

Football

The Under 14 Girls are unbeaten in the Borough Cup competition and are through to the semi-finals. They are looking to bounce back after a tough loss in their first League match of the season.

The Under 13 and Under 15 boys are out of their respective Borough Cup competitions, but both secured their first wins in the League competition.



The Under 18 1st XI is currently unbeaten in the Borough League competition. The 2nd XI is through to the quarterfinals of the Borough Cup.

Trampolining

PE teacher Ms Davey and the trampolinists are diligently preparing their routines for the Borough competition, which will be hosted by Drayton Manor next half term. More details will be with you after half term.

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!

PARENT AND CARER BULLETIN

Half Term Break
13 -17 February



School will resume on Monday 20 February

IMPORTANT DATES AFTER HALF TERM

Click [HERE](#) for Parent Bulletin Dates

YEAR 12 PARENTS' VIRTUAL EVENING – THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY

Parents' Evening for Year 12 parents and carers will be held on Thursday 23 February from 4:30-7pm. This is a virtual event and bookings are made through SchoolCloud. The evening will focus on how your child is progressing in their subjects. Each appointment will last approximately five minutes. Registration will open on Monday 23 January. Please sign up [HERE](#) to attend. A letter with details of the event here.

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 20 February. A letter to parents about the GCSE Options process [HERE](#).

Events for students:

- Thursday 23 February - Options Assembly
- Week Beginning 27 February – Introduction to subjects

Parents and carers please note the following dates of events:

- Tuesday 7 March – Year 9 Options Evening - 5:15PM – 6:30PM (In person)
- Tuesday 7 March - Year 9 GCSE Options Registration begins. Deadline for registration is Friday 24 March
- Thursday 9 March - Year 9 Parents Evening - 4:30PM – 7:00PM (Online)