



As we bid farewell to the chill of winter and embrace the vibrant colours of spring, it's time to reflect on the achievements and events that have filled our school with excitement. In this Newsletter, we celebrate the accomplishments of our students, highlight memorable moments from the term, and share upcoming plans that promise to keep the spirit of learning thriving. Happy Reading!

**DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE**

We are delighted to announce that Drayton Manor High School's outstanding achievements have been nationally recognized by SSAT (The Schools, Students and Teachers Network) for this year's Educational Outcomes Awards. This award acknowledges Drayton Manor High School's position among the top-performing Secondary schools in the country, based on the performance data from 2023.

Drayton Manor High School has excelled in two key categories, earning awards for ranking in the top 10% of schools nationwide for student progress and in the top 20% of non-selective schools for student attainment in the 2023 end-of-KS4 exams.

"Congratulations to Drayton Manor High School on receiving two SSAT Educational Outcomes Awards. This accomplishment is a testament to the exceptional learning and teaching, outstanding support, and inspirational leadership provided by students, staff, parents, and governors. You have truly made a profound difference in the lives of the young people in your school. Thank you."  
- Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT

We extend our gratitude to all members of our school community for their dedication and commitment to excellence. This recognition underscores our ongoing pursuit of educational excellence and our unwavering commitment to the success of our students. Let us continue to strive for greatness as we embark on the next chapter of our journey at Drayton Manor High School.

**DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL WINS "ENCORE!"**



A group of 14 Drayton Manor High School Musicians competed against students from other local Ealing schools in ENCORE, the Ealing Music Service Battle of the Bands. The event was held at Ealing Christian Centre in Northfields where students performed on a large stage with professional lighting and sound setup. The standard of performance was very high, and impressive. Despite it being the students' first time competing, they won the overall competition, with judge Neil Phillips commenting on the high standard of musicians from all our performers. Watch the video [here](#).

**CELEBRATING DILAN IN YEAR 8'S ACHIEVEMENT AT THE MIDDLESEX FINALS**



Dilan has been selected to represent Drayton Manor at the Middlesex Finals for the Ealing School XCcountry Team. This is a tremendous achievement and a testament to his dedication, hard work, and talent. Being chosen to compete at such a prestigious event is no small feat, and it speaks volumes about this commitment to excellence in athletics. As Dilan prepares to compete at

the Middlesex Finals, we want to extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes. We have no doubt that Dilan will represent Drayton Manor with integrity, determination, and skill at the upcoming event.

**DRAYTON MANOR BASKETBALL SHINES AT THE LONDON YOUTH GAMES**



Drayton Manor High School has once again showcased its athletic prowess, this time on the basketball court at the prestigious London Youth Games. The Senior Boys' team soared to victory, securing the Gold Medal, while the Junior Boys' team demonstrated remarkable skill, winning the Silver Medal. The triumphs of both teams are a testament to their dedication, hard work, and exceptional talent. Throughout the tournament, every player exhibited outstanding teamwork and sportsmanship, making the school proud. The Senior Boys' team displayed resilience and skill in every game, overcoming challenges with precision and poise. The Junior Boys' team demonstrated remarkable promise and talent, captivating audiences with their impressive performance on the court.





**CHAMPIONSHIPS**



Sofia and Naimah have reached an impressive milestone by securing the Fifth and Fourth positions respectively at the Middlesex XCCountry Championships. This exceptional performance has secured them both well-deserved spots at the England Schools' Finals. Such a remarkable feat not only underscores Sofia and Naimah's dedication, determination, and talent but also reflects positively on Drayton Manor High School. While participating in the Middlesex XCCountry Championships is a significant achievement, advancing to the England Schools' Finals is an extraordinary accomplishment. Sofia's and Naimah's unwavering commitment to excellence and their remarkable achievements make us immensely proud as a school community.

**CELEBRATING SUCCESS: EMPOWERING GIRLS THROUGH RUGBY AND CAREER EXPLORATION**



We are thrilled to share the exciting news that our girls have successfully completed a 10-week program facilitated by London Irish rugby foundation, generously funded by the Mayor of London. This innovative program not only aims to introduce girls to the world of rugby but also to broaden their horizons by exploring various career pathways. Throughout the program, our girls had the opportunity to engage in a series of rugby sessions with Lampton School, where they not only learned the fundamentals of the sport but also developed essential skills such as teamwork and communication. They attended

career workshops designed to inspire and inform them about potential career paths within their local communities, including opportunities in fields such as Heathrow security. The highlight of the program was undoubtedly the finale, which took place at Longridge. Here, our girls participated in a range of thrilling activities, including high ropes challenges, stack building, and laser tag. It was a fantastic way to conclude an inspiring 10 weeks, filled with growth, learning, and unforgettable experiences.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to London Irish and the Mayor of London for their support in making this program possible. Their investment in empowering young girls through sports and career exploration is truly commendable and has had a profound impact on our students. We also want to applaud our girls for their dedication, enthusiasm, and resilience throughout the program. Their willingness to embrace new challenges and seize opportunities for personal and professional growth is a testament to their incredible potential. As we celebrate the success of this program, we look forward to continuing to support and empower our girls as they embark on their educational and career journeys.

Here is a heartfelt quote directly from a student-  
"We enjoyed learning a new sport, bonding with other schools, and making new friends while developing new skills through various activities. After the course, we truly enjoyed the Longridge activity centre."

**INTERVIEW WITH SOFIA: REFLECTING ON SUCCESS IN MIDDLESEX XCOUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Q:** Sofia, congratulations on your outstanding performance at the Middlesex XCCountry Championships! Can you tell us how you feel about securing the Fifth and second position in such a competitive race?

**Sofia:** Thank you so much! It's truly exciting to have achieved this milestone. Placing fifth and second in a race like this feels incredibly rewarding and validates all the hard work I've put into my training.

**Q:** You mentioned that you've been training since you were four years old. Could you share with us a bit about your training routine and how it has contributed to your success?

**Sofia:** Absolutely. Training has been a fundamental aspect of my journey in athletics. With the guidance of my personal coach, I engage in various exercises such as tempo

runs, jogs, and 1-kilometer sprints. These routines have helped me build endurance and speed, which proved valuable during the Middlesex XCCountry Championships.

**Q:** Cross country races can present unique challenges due to the uneven terrain. What strategies do you employ to overcome such obstacles during a race?

**Sofia:** Indeed, navigating uneven ground can be quite challenging. I focus on maintaining a steady pace and adjusting my stride to adapt to the terrain. It's all about finding a balance between speed and stability while conserving energy for the entire race.

**Q:** You've participated in a range of races, including Intercounty and National competitions. How do you feel you've progressed as an athlete over the years?

**Sofia:** I believe I've grown tremendously as an athlete, both physically and mentally. I've become more resilient, especially when facing tough competition. Additionally, I've noticed a significant improvement in my endurance, allowing me to tackle longer distances with greater ease.

**Q:** Looking ahead, what are your aspirations in athletics, and how do you plan to continue your success?

**Sofia:** My goal is to continue pushing my limits and striving for excellence in every race I compete in. I aim to represent my school and country at higher levels of competition while inspiring others to pursue their passion for running. With dedication, I'm confident that I can achieve even greater feats in the future.



**LORENZO: A TAEKWONDO CHAMPION IN THE MAKING!**

In our school community, amidst the radiant tapestry of talent, we find our Year 7 student Lorenzo, a rising star in the world of Taekwondo. Lorenzo's journey in the martial arts realm has been nothing short of inspiring, marked by dedication, resilience, and an unwavering pursuit of excellence. Let's delve deeper into his remarkable achievements and aspirations in this exclusive interview.



**Q:** Lorenzo, congratulations on your outstanding achievements in Taekwondo! Could you tell us about your recent triumphs at the National Championships?

**Lorenzo:** Thank you! It's been an incredible journey. At the National Championships, I was fortunate to secure gold medals in various categories, including Best Overall, movement/ techniques, fighting, and special techniques. Representing my Taekwondo club, D'silva Taekwondo, has been a source of immense pride for me.

**Q:** Impressive indeed! How long have you been practicing Taekwondo, and what inspired you to pursue this martial art?

**Lorenzo:** I've been immersed in the world of Taekwondo for five years now. What drew me to this discipline was the blend of physical prowess, mental focus, and the camaraderie among my peers. It's more than just a hobby for me; it's a passion that brings joy and fulfilment to my life.

**Q:** Balancing academics and sports can be challenging. How do you manage your time between Taekwondo training and schoolwork?

**Lorenzo:** It's a juggling act! I typically dedicate at least three hours a day to Taekwondo practice, but I am conscious of the need to prioritize my studies. As I work towards my black belt, I plan to adjust my training schedule to ensure a healthy balance. Education remains my top priority, and I'm determined not to compromise on it.

**Q:** The journey to a black belt is undoubtedly demanding. Could you shed some light on the challenges you face during your Taekwondo sessions?

**Lorenzo:** Training for a black belt is rigorous, both physically and mentally. The intensity of the sessions can be gruelling, but I embrace the challenges with determination and perseverance. Each test brings me closer to my goal, and I find solace in the joy of practicing this martial art.

**Q:** Looking ahead, what are your aspirations for the future of your Taekwondo journey?

**Lorenzo:** My goal is to compete in more National Championships and, hopefully, represent my country in the World Championships one day. I'm driven by a passion for excellence and a desire to push my limits further with each competition.

**Q:** Your dedication is truly commendable. What message would you like to convey to your peers and fellow students interested in pursuing Taekwondo?

**Lorenzo:** To my peers and aspiring Taekwondo enthusiasts, I would say, keep practicing. Taekwondo is not just a sport; it's a journey of self-discovery and growth. Yes, it requires

hard work and dedication, but the rewards are immeasurable. With commitment and perseverance, you can achieve greatness in this beautiful martial art.

Lorenzo's journey in Taekwondo exemplifies the spirit of determination and resilience that we strive to instil in our students at Drayton Manor High School. We celebrate his achievements and wish him continued success in his endeavours. Let's rally behind Lorenzo as he continues to pursue his dreams with unwavering passion and dedication.



### MATILDA- THE MUSICAL ENTHRALS AUDIENCE AT DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL



On 29 February, the Drama Department transformed the school into a world of magic, wonder, and imagination as students took to stage to perform the beloved classic, Matilda-the Musical. With months of preparation and dedication, our talented cast and crew brought to life the enchanting story of Matilda Wormwood, a young girl with a remarkable gift for storytelling and a thirst for knowledge. From the moment the curtain rose, the audience was transported into the whimsical world of Roald Dahl, filled with unforgettable characters and unforgettable moments. The

energy and enthusiasm of our performers were palpable, as they delivered captivating performances that had the audience laughing, cheering, and even shedding a tear or two.



From the toe-tapping musical numbers to the heartwarming moments of friendship and bravery, every aspect of the production was executed with precision and passion. Behind the scenes, our dedicated crew worked tirelessly to ensure that every detail was perfect, from the elaborate set designs to the stunning costumes and lighting effects. Their hard work and creativity were evident in every scene, adding depth and dimension to the production and bringing the world of Matilda to life in breathtaking fashion. As the final curtain fell and the applause rang out, it was clear that the Musical had left a lasting impression on everyone in attendance. The talent and dedication of our students, combined with the timeless story and unforgettable music of Matilda, made for an evening that will be cherished and remembered for years to come.



### MATILDA SUCCESS CELEBRATION BREAKFAST

Thursday morning, 14 March, saw the talented student cast of "Matilda - The Musical" gather for a celebratory breakfast at the Dining Hall. Amidst the joyous atmosphere, they indulged in a delightful spread featuring chocolate pancakes, cereal, buns, and various other treats. The occasion served as a well-deserved reward for their dedication and hard work



in bringing the production to life. As they relished in their success and camaraderie, the breakfast provided a moment of celebration and reflection on their achievements.



**DRAMA DEPARTMENT ENJOYS A MAGICAL EXPERIENCE AT WICKED THE MUSICAL**

On February 21, 2024, the Drama Department students embarked on an enchanting journey to the Apollo Victoria Theatre to witness the spectacular production of Wicked, the Musical.

Departing from school at 12:30 PM, our students anticipated an afternoon filled with spellbinding performances and mesmerizing storytelling. As the curtains rose, the audience was transported into the enchanting world of Oz, where they were captivated by the tale of Elphaba, the misunderstood Wicked Witch of the West, and Glinda the Good. From the dazzling set designs to the breathtaking musical numbers, every aspect of the production left our students in awe. The trip inspired and provided insight into the world of professional theatre. Witnessing the passion and dedication of the cast and crew of Wicked served as a source of motivation for our aspiring actors and actresses, igniting their dreams of performing on stage. As the students returned to school, they brought with them newfound enthusiasm for the performing arts.



**DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL XI U16 BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM VS ADA LOVELACE**

In a thrilling match that had fans on the edge of their seats, the Drayton Manor High School XI U16 Boys Football Team emerged victorious against Ada Lovelace, on the pitch. With passion and determination fuelling their every move, our talented team displayed exceptional skill and teamwork throughout the match. Every goal scored was met with roars of excitement from the crowd, driving our players to push even harder in pursuit of victory. In the end, it was a well-deserved win for the XI U16 Boys Football Team, which was a testament to their hard work and dedication on the training ground.



**WELL-BEING AMBASSADORS AND HOUSE CAPTAINS CHANNEL THEIR CREATIVITY WHILE STANDING UP TO BULLYING**

In a heartwarming display of solidarity and support, the Well-Being Ambassadors and House Captains came together on 24 February to participate in 'Stand Up to Bullying Day.'



This special initiative aimed to raise awareness about the importance of fostering a safe and inclusive school environment. The students were invited to channel their baking skills by creating fairy cakes with pink icing sugar, symbolizing their commitment to standing up against bullying. The event kicked off at 12.30 PM, with students eagerly rolling up their sleeves and getting to work in the kitchen. As

the aroma of freshly baked treats filled the air, it was clear that this was more than just a baking session; it was a powerful statement of unity and compassion. The colourful array of cakes served as a visual reminder of our collective responsibility to support one another and promote kindness and respect within our school community. As we reflect on the success of 'Stand Up to Bullying Day,' let us carry forward the spirit of empathy and solidarity, not just today, but every day.



**YEAR 9 OPTIONS ASSEMBLY**

On 21 February, Drayton Manor High School held a pivotal GCSE Options Assembly for Year 9 students. This informative session provided invaluable insights into the various GCSE subjects available, empowering students to make informed decisions about their academic pathways. Through engaging presentations and discussions, students gained a clearer understanding of the subjects on offer and the potential career paths they could lead to. The assembly marked an important milestone in the academic journey of our Year 9 students as they begin to shape their future education.

**YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING**

Drayton Manor High School hosted a successful Year 9 Options Evening on 5 March in the main hall. This event provided an invaluable opportunity for Year 9 parents to gain insight into the various subject options available to their children as they progress through their academic journey. With informative presentations and interactive discussions, parents were equipped with the knowledge and resources needed to support their children in making informed decisions about their future education.

**ALUMNI WORKSHOPS HOSTED BY JAMES BOLAJI AND LAUREN NOEL**

We were thrilled to welcome James Bolaji and Lauren Noel to Drayton Manor High School for two insightful workshops held in



the Assembly Hall. On 4 March, James Bolaji, a Research Scientist currently completing his PhD and working at GSK, delivered an engaging session during Period 1. Drawing from his experience studying at Imperial College London, James shared valuable insights into his field of expertise, inspiring students with his journey and knowledge. Similarly, on 8 March, we had the pleasure of hosting Lauren Noel, a Bristol University alumna who is pursuing a career in medicine. Her workshop during Period 1 provided students with valuable perspectives on the medical field and insights into her academic and professional journey. Students who were allocated a place at these talks were informed in advance and received further details about the arrangements for the events. Furthermore, Year 13 students with free periods during these times were welcomed to attend, enriching their learning experience.



### STUDENTS ENGAGE WITH ECONPLUSDAL AT ECONOMICS CONFERENCE

Drayton Manor High School's Year 12 and 13 economics students, alongside selected Year 10 and 11 pupils, recently immersed themselves in an enlightening economic conference on 26 and 27 February. Hosted by the renowned YouTuber, Virang Dal, known as EconPlusDal, the event offered a unique platform for students to explore economic principles and contemporary issues in an engaging and interactive manner. Across both days, attendees were captivated by Dal's

insightful discussions, dynamic workshops, and thought-provoking presentations. Through a blend of real-world examples and academic theory, students gained valuable insights into the complexities of economics and its relevance to everyday life. On 27 February, Year 13 students had the exclusive opportunity to dive deeper into A Level-specific topics, benefiting from Dal's guidance as they prepared for their upcoming examinations. The conference not only broadened students' understanding of economics but also fostered critical thinking skills and encouraged them to consider the broader implications of economic decisions on society.



### YEAR 9 SHINE CAREERS DAY



On Thursday, 29 February, the Year 9 students embarked on an exciting off-timetable day filled with interactive workshops led by external providers. The event was designed to broaden students' horizons and inspire future career paths, featured local professionals, alumni, and representatives from higher education institutions. Throughout the day, students participated in a carousel of workshops covering a diverse range of topics, from STEM fields to the arts and humanities. They had the opportunity to engage with professionals from various industries, gain insights into potential career paths, and explore their interests in a supportive and dynamic environment.

### YEAR 7 BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM FACE OFF AGAINST EALING FIELDS

In an electrifying match that had spectators on the edge of their seats, the Drayton Manor High School Year 7 Boys Basketball Team went head-to-head against Ealing Fields in a tightly contested game. Both teams brought their A-game to the court, showcasing impressive skills and determination from the opening tip-off. With every dribble, pass, and shot, it was clear that victory was on the line, and neither team was willing to back down. It was a display of resilience and sportsmanship from start to finish, as our boys refused to let up, even in the face of fierce competition. Though the result may not have gone our way this time, our boys can hold their heads high knowing they gave it their all on the court.



### WELLBEING AMBASSADOR MEETING

The Wellbeing Ambassador meeting assembled on Wednesday, 13 March, gathering representatives from all year groups at the library. Among the agenda items were plans for upcoming events, including Red Nose Day activities, an anticipated visit from esteemed speaker Aiden McLure, and the initiative to draft appreciation notes for teachers. Under the guidance of Mr. Poole, the meeting raised collaborative discussions and strategic planning to promote student welfare and engagement. With diverse initiatives on the horizon, the Ambassadors are poised to make meaningful contributions to the school community, fostering positivity, and support amongst peers and staff alike.





**BRENT VALLEY GOLF ACADEMY**

Several of our students recently had the opportunity to participate in a taster session organised by the prestigious Brent Valley Golf Academy, aimed at identifying new talent for this year's intake. After an engaging hour filled with putting, chipping, and driving practice, we are thrilled to announce that Connor and Tristan have been accepted onto the programme! As part of their membership, Connor and Tristan will benefit from 40 hours of personalised 1-to-1 coaching, tailored to enhance their golfing abilities. Additionally, they will receive a membership to the esteemed Brent Valley Golf Course, providing them with ample opportunities to hone their skills on the green. To top it off, they will also receive a full bag of clubs, equipping them with the tools necessary to excel in their golfing journey.

**AIDEN MCCLURE ENGAGES STUDENTS WITH MARKETING AND ADVERTISING EXPERTISE**

On Thursday, 21 March, we had the privilege of hosting Aiden McClure as a guest speaker. Mr McClure is a distinguished professional with 17 years of experience in the advertising industry. The event, which took place during the school day, featured a special presentation followed by a Q&A session. Mr. McClure's visit provided students with a unique opportunity to delve into the intricacies of the advertising world and gain invaluable insights from a seasoned professional. His wealth of experience lent itself to an engaging session, where students had the chance to gain firsthand knowledge about this dynamic industry.

We are grateful to Mr. McClure for generously sharing his time and expertise with our students. Such events play a crucial role in preparing them for future endeavours. We encourage parents to discuss this enriching experience with their children and seize similar opportunities that may arise in the future.



**UNDER THE LIGHTS: EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH DRAMA TO EXPLORE BULLYING**



As we approach the end of another term, it is a pleasure to share with you the remarkable achievements of our Year 7 students in their recent Drama assessments. In a captivating display of creativity, our young actors delved into the complex theme of bullying, using their theatrical talents to shed light on this prevalent issue. Tasked with devising social drama performances centred around the topic of 'bullying,' they employed various drama techniques to deepen their understanding of the subject matter. During the performances, it was evident that the students had embraced the challenge wholeheartedly. Each portrayal was imbued with authenticity and emotion, as they brought their characters to life on stage. Drawing upon the skills acquired in previous terms, they navigated the complexities of their roles, delivering compelling performances. The addition of production elements such as lighting and set design added depth to the productions, elevating them to a professional standard.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

We would like to wish all our students and their families a wonderful holiday! We will be back with more updates and activities in the Summer Term. See you on Monday, April 15.

**PARENT AND CARER BULLETIN**

END OF SPRING TERM – 28 MARCH  
SPRING TERM BREAK – 29 MARCH - 12 APRIL  
FIRST DAY SUMMER TERM – 15 APRIL

**EVENTS FOR THE FIRST TWO WEEKS BACK**

22 April  
University of Cambridge Trip for Year 10

24 April  
Lunch time Music  
Battle of Bands

25 April  
Year 7 Parents' Evening (4.30 PM to 7.00 pm)

The event details will be shared separately with parents and carers.

Please find the latest Parent and Carer Bulletin [here](#).

