



DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL

## WEEKLY PARENT & CARER BULLETIN 13 MAY – 17 MAY 2024

### KEY DATES FOR THE TERM AHEAD

Events	Dates
Mental Health Awareness Week	13-17/05/2024
Brilliant Club Graduation	15/05/2024
Cultural Diversity World Day	17/05/2024
<b>HALF TERM BREAK</b>	27-31/05/2024

### 1. EXAMS - GCSE SCHEDULE (13 MAY TO 17 MAY)

Please find below the Year 11 GCSE timetable from 13 to 17 May.

13 May	08:55	01:45	AQA	8702/1	English Literature Paper 1	GCSE/9FC	229
13 May	13:00	01:30	OCR	J205/01	Economics: Intro to Economics Wtn	GCSE/9FC	29
13 May	13:00	01:30	WJEC/GCSE	C680U10-1	Media Studies COMP1 Exploring Media	GCSE/9FC	23
14 May	08:55	00:35	AQA	8658/LF	French Listening Test Tier F	GCSE/9FC	42
14 May	08:55	00:45	AQA	8658/RF	French Reading Test Tier F	GCSE/9FC	42
14 May	08:55	00:45	AQA	8658/LH	French Listening Test Tier H	GCSE/9FC	28
14 May	08:55	01:00	AQA	8658/RH	French Reading Test Tier H	GCSE/9FC	28
14 May	13:00	01:30	OCR	J282/01	17 May pmLatin: Language Wrtn	GCSE/9FC	27
14 May	13:00	01:45	EDEXL/GCSE	1B50 01	Investigating Small Bus.	GCSE/9FC	70
15 May	08:55	02:00	AQA	7136/1	Economics ADV Paper 1	GCE/A	15
15 May	08:55	01:15	EDEXL/GCSE	1H10 13	Migrants in Britain	GCSE/9FC	103
15 May	13:00	01:30	OCR	J277/01	Comp Sci: Computer Systems Wrtn	GCSE/9FC	56
15 May	13:00	00:45	EDEXL/GCSE	1AA0 1H	Listening [H]	GCSE/9FC	7
15 May	13:00	01:05	EDEXL/GCSE	1AA0 3H	Reading [H]	GCSE/9FC	7
16 May	08:55	02:15	EDEXL/GCE	9GE0 01	Paper One	GCE/A	16
16 May	08:55	01:30	EDEXL/GCSE	1MA1 1F	Non Calculator [F]	GCSE/9FC	81
16 May	08:55	01:30	EDEXL/GCSE	1MA1 1H	Non Calculator [H]	GCSE/9FC	148
16 May	13:00	01:45	AQA	8062/2A	Religious Studies A P2A Excl Text	GCSE/9FC	20
17 May	08:55	01:45	AQA	8462/1H	Chemistry Paper 1 Tier H	GCSE/9FC	82
17 May	08:55	01:45	AQA	8462/1F	Chemistry Paper 1 Tier F	GCSE/9FC	12
17 May	08:55	01:15	AQA	8464/C/1H	Combined Sci Trilogy Chemistry P1H	GCSE/9DA	87
17 May	08:55	01:15	AQA	8464/C/1F	Combined Sci Trilogy Chemistry P1F	GCSE/9DA	48
17 May	08:55	02:00	AQA	7182/1	Psychology ADV Paper 1	GCE/A	38
17 May	13:00	01:30	AQA	8035/1	Geography Paper 1	GCSE/9FC	105
17 May	13:00	01:30	RSA	583902	EC3IT : U2 Global Information	CAMX/EC3	6

## **2. INSPIRING GUEST SPEAKERS AT DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL**

On Tuesday 7 May, the Year 10 and 12 students attended a special assembly with David Dein MBE. David Dein, who served as vice-chairman of Arsenal from 1983 to 2007, played a pivotal role in shaping the club's trajectory and was instrumental in founding the Premier League in 1992. On Wednesday 8 May, the school also hosted a Careers Talk by alumnus Sanjay Singhal, Chief Executive of Voltage TV, an award-winning executive producer with over 20 years of experience in programme-making. All students in Year 9 attended this engaging event. Stay tuned to know more about this event in the upcoming Half-Term Newsletter!

## **3. ETHIC OF EXCELLENCE AND SPIRIT OF ENDEAVOUR AWARDS**

Last week marked a significant moment at Drayton Manor High School as selected students from Year 7 to Year 10 were honoured with the prestigious Ethic of Excellence and Spirit of Endeavour awards. These accolades recognise the outstanding achievements of top performers within each year group, acknowledging their exceptional subject performance, consistent ambition, and unwavering dedication. The recipients of these awards have demonstrated a remarkable commitment to academic excellence and personal growth throughout the Half Term. We are immensely proud of these deserving winners and their outstanding accomplishments.

## **4. PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO ENSURE STUDENT SAFETY**

Parent support plays a critical role in helping us keep students safe. A kind reminder that students should proceed immediately home at the end of each day. They must not invite any outsiders or individuals from other schools to the school or associate with them. Students should keep all valuables out of sight. The Senior Team undertakes extensive supervision at the end of the day to ensure students get home safely, including a driving patrol to cover a wider geographical area. As a school, we are grateful to our parents and carers for their support with this matter.

## **5. ENRICHMENT**

Students are encouraged to participate in a selection of activities designed to enrich their learning experience. These activities aim to foster personal growth, skill development, and a well-rounded academic experience for your child. To explore the full schedule of enrichment options for the 2023 - 24 Academic Year, [please click here](#). We believe these activities will contribute significantly to your child's academic and personal development.

## **6. NOTICE REGARDING LAST MINUTE APPOINTMENTS**

We would request that all dentist and doctor's appointments are booked outside of the normal school day unless they are emergency appointments. Should you need to take a student to an on the day emergency appointment, please contact the school as soon as possible to alert us, prior to your attendance at school.

## 7. DELIVERY POLICY UPDATE

We are seeing an increase in parents and guardians attempt to deliver sports kits, lunches etc., during the school day. Please encourage students to be organised and prepared prior to school. We understand that there may be occasions where emergencies arise, but we are unfortunately unable to deliver routine items to students during the school day. If you need to attend site in case of an emergency, please contact the school office on 020 83571900 in advance to make necessary arrangements.

## 8. FREE ONLINE PARENTING WORKSHOP

Ealing Parenting Service will be organising a free online parenting workshop on how to deescalate and improve communication with your child. The workshop will take place on Tuesday 30 April from 10 AM to 12 PM via MS teams. Please email [parentingserviceadmin@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:parentingserviceadmin@ealing.gov.uk) to register your place.

## 9. EALING MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Over the Spring term, the Ealing Mental Health Support Team will be organizing a variety of workshops for parents and carers of children who attend schools in Ealing. [Please click here](#) to know more and how you can sign up for the workshop.

## 10. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: DELIVERY POLICY UPDATE

### **Why does the school have restrictions on deliveries during the school day?**

We have observed a rise in parents and guardians attempting to deliver various items such as sports kits, lunches, and other routine items during school hours. This influx can disrupt the school day as staff cannot leave their duties to deliver items. It is also important that the school site is kept secure, hence visits to the premises are arranged by appointment only. Therefore, we encourage students to be organised and prepared prior to arriving at school.

### **What should I do if my child forgets something essential for school?**

While we understand emergencies can happen, routine deliveries during school hours are discouraged. We recommend ensuring your child is well-prepared before school each day to avoid disruptions. In case of a genuine emergency, please contact the school office on 020 83571900 to make the necessary arrangements and the staff can organise a time.

### **What qualifies as an emergency for which I can deliver items during school hours?**

An emergency would typically involve situations where a student's health or safety is at risk due to a forgotten essential item (e.g., medication or house keys).

### **How can we help our children remember essential items for school?**

Encouraging your child to take responsibility for their belongings and daily preparations is key. Establishing a routine at home, such as packing school bags the night before, can significantly reduce the likelihood of forgetting essential items.

## 11. TOP TIPS

Today's top tips from the National College is about the video game Helldivers 2.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HELLDIVERS 2



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Within weeks of release, Helldivers 2 had become one of 2024's biggest gaming success stories. The sequel to a top-down shooter from 2015 has smashed sales expectations, owing to its frantic gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humour. However, the game comes with several risks to younger players, as indicated by its 18+ rating.

### PEGI 18 RATING



Due to its intense violence and the presence of in-game purchases, Helldivers 2 carries a PEGI 18 rating. While players are generally fighting fantastical enemies like giant bugs and robots, their characters can be killed in various gruesome ways, up to and including dismemberment. It's certainly worth considering whether such a game is appropriate for younger players.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES

In Helldivers 2, players can use real money to buy in-game currency, with which they can unlock cosmetics and new weapons. At the time of writing, all the in-game items can be acquired without spending so much as a penny – but excited young players wanting to keep up with their friends may still feel the temptation to purchase new weapons more quickly, rather than laboriously earning the in-game currency through play.

### VOICE CHAT AND MESSAGING

Helldivers 2 is always played online with others, who often use voice chat or in-game texts to coordinate, strategise or just joke around. This does mean that children who play without their friends will be put in contact with strangers. Unfortunately, this represents a roll of the dice, as the game can't control how people treat each other online. However, you can easily report other players for abusive behaviour via the game's 'Social' tab.

### FRUSTRATION TRIGGER

The thrill of barely scraping through a dangerous mission in one piece is integral to Helldivers 2's appeal. To accentuate this feeling of achievement, the game includes some very difficult levels that could prove to be too hard for some players – even those who are legitimately old enough to play. Losing streaks can be incredibly annoying, so repeatedly failing in missions could easily provoke frustration or anger in younger players.

### LACK OF ACCESS

The game is available on PC and PS5, but not (as yet) on other consoles. Some people will naturally be disappointed they can't get involved and might look for similar alternatives to play on their own console – alternatives which may contain similar levels of violence and gore but lack the same balanced approach to user misconduct and in-game purchases as Helldivers 2.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### GIVE IT A GO FIRST

Helldivers 2 is a third-person shooter with intentionally humorous elements, but much of its comedy is rooted in satire which may go over the heads of some players. Consider playing the game first yourself – while shooting bugs and robots feels too unrealistic to be upsetting, seeing your character get torn to pieces may be too much for young players.

### SET EXPECTATIONS

At the time of writing, Helldivers 2 costs £34.99. It could turn out to be an expensive and wasteful purchase if a player gets irritated and gives up shortly after receiving the game. If a young person tends to become frustrated easily, it's worth considering whether Helldivers 2 is really the game for them.

### CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES

If playing on Xbox – where Helldivers 2 isn't available – consider something like Halo: The Master Chief Collection as an alternative. One of its game modes – Firefight – replicates Helldivers' mechanics to some degree. Alternatively, younger players may be better suited to the more light-hearted Deep Rock Galactic, which sees them play as fantasy dwarves in space, involving far less gruesome violence.

### KEEP AN EYE ON PAYMENTS

Many titles offer in-game purchases, but Helldivers 2's are comparatively cheap. You'll still need to monitor your payment information (or use a prepaid card on the account), in case your child buys the in-game currency in bulk; on the whole, however, the game's selling methods are far less egregious than most similar titles on the market.

### MONITOR COMMUNICATION & ADJUST SETTINGS

Thanks to an in-game "Ping" system (allowing players to highlight important details without speaking), communication isn't as integral to Helldivers 2 as it is in other games. You can turn off the chat options in-game on PC, or on the PS5's own settings, and feel more secure in the knowledge that your child won't be speaking to people they don't know.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRcon, and has been working in the games media industry for five years. As well as being an avid long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.



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