

PRESS RELEASE

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF *THE PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW 2014*

DRAYTON MANOR SELECTED FOR *THE PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW 2014* ALONGSIDE THE PRIME MINISTER

Drayton Manor High School has been selected as an example of good practice in education alongside David Cameron in the 2014 *Parliamentary Review*. The publication, which has several versions based on key policy areas, has the involvement of the Prime Minister, leading Cabinet ministers including George Osborne and Nicky Morgan, and other outstanding organisations and leaders who have discussed how they've responded to political and economic challenges as a learning tool to their peers.

The Education Edition of *The Parliamentary Review* also consists of a political commentary, summarising the year in education along with events in Westminster. The commentary is written by two of the UK's leading journalists - Sean Coughlan and Mark D'Arcy - the BBC's Education and Parliamentary correspondents respectively.

The representatives selected are used as an example of best practice to leaders in the public and private sector.

'Our recovery is real, but it has not been easy – as the articles in this year's The Parliamentary Review demonstrate, it is thanks to the ongoing resolve of the British people that our country is starting to recover after such tough economic times.'

Director of *The Parliamentary Review*, Daniel Yossman, said

The key idea of the Review is to demonstrate how determined leadership and innovative thinking can really turn around organisations or to highlight best practice of outstanding leaders in their field - the contributors thus act as a template for reform.

Editor-in-Chief of *The Parliamentary Review*, the Rt Hon David Curry, said

The whole purpose of the Review is to provide a forum where organisations can set out what they have achieved and, crucially how they have achieved it. We set their articles in the context of the political and economic environment – described clearly and critically by experts in the field. The aim is to showcase, explain and learn, not in some abstract or theoretical way but by dealing with reality, however challenging that reality may be.

HMC Head, Richard Harman, said

We share common values and by working together we can also share best practice and compare the distinctive features in individual organisations that lead to success.

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2013 / 2014

SECONDARY EDUCATION EDITION

The Parliamentary Review

A YEAR IN PERSPECTIVE

■ FOREWORDS

The Rt Hon David Cameron MP

The Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP

■ REPRESENTATIVES

Drayton Manor High School

Ormiston Victory Academy

Townley Grammar School

Torch Academy Gateway Trust

The Ecclesbourne School

Wakefield City Academy

The Liverpool Blue Coat School

Mulberry School for Girls

Burnt Mill Academy

ARK Globe Academy

■ FEATURES

Review of the Year

Review of Parliament



The Rt Hon David Cameron MP Prime Minister

Four years ago our economy was in the danger zone. We now have one of the fastest growing economies in the developed world, and a better and brighter future for Britain is within reach. This hasn't happened by accident – it is thanks to the ongoing sacrifices and determination of the British people, and because of the long-term economic plan the government is working through.

The deficit is down by more than a third, safeguarding the economy for the long term and keeping mortgage rates low. 25 million hard-working people have had their taxes cut, helping families be more financially secure. There are 1.8 million more people in work – that's 1.8 million more people with the sense of security and dignity that comes with a job. Immigration is down and benefits have been capped, ensuring our economy delivers for people who want to work hard and play by the rules. And 800,000 more children are now taught in good or outstanding schools, as we give the next generation a decent education, with the skills necessary to succeed in the global race.

44,000 people have received the life-saving cancer treatment they deserve, thanks to our Cancer Drugs Fund. Our Help to Buy schemes are enabling people to access an affordable mortgage and buy their own home, with nearly 40,000 people already on the property ladder as a result. And with crime down to its lowest level since records began, people up and down the country can feel safer in their own homes and communities.

Those jobs that used to be sent overseas – they're returning to these shores. The production lines that ground to a halt – they're cranking into action. Businesses from all over the world are asking how they can invest in our country.

But it's not just what we are doing that matters, it's why. Our ambitions are not only measured in percentage points on a graph but in the families who have the hope of a better, more secure future; the father who gets back into work after years unemployed; the moment when someone gets the keys to their first home, starts their first business, or receives their first pay cheque.

Our recovery is real, but it has not been easy – as the articles in this year's *The Parliamentary Review* demonstrate, it is thanks to the ongoing resolve of the British people that our country is starting to recover after such tough economic times. That is why it is so important that we stick to the plan.

We must continue to take the difficult decisions to help us build a better Britain; one that rewards those who have put in, who contribute and who play by the rules. This way we can deliver a brighter future for our country – with Britain standing tall in the world again and its people more secure at home.

“ We now have one of the fastest growing economies in the developed world, and a better and brighter future for Britain is within reach ”

Drayton Manor High School



The school prides itself on its high academic standards and excellence across the board



Sir Pritpal Singh, Head Teacher

The Good Schools Guide opens its review of the school with the sentence 'This is about as good as it gets', and it also notes that the school is vastly oversubscribed. This serves only to make us even more determined to do better than before.

Drayton Manor first opened as a grammar school in 1930 in Ealing, becoming a comprehensive in 1973, grant-maintained in 1992 and a foundation school in 1998. In 2004, the school's Head Teacher, Sir Pritpal Singh (knighted in 2005 for services to education), was recognised as the Head Teacher of the Year for London. He is only the fifth head teacher in the school's history.

The school was named in the Chief Inspector's Report to Parliament as an outstanding school. The last Ofsted report described Sir Pritpal as having 'a strong, clear vision' and someone who had 'successfully established an outstanding ethos in the school'. It also noted our 'dedication to students' well-being and success'.

The school received academy status in August 2011, and today provides an education for almost 1600 students aged 11–19 years. It prides itself on its high academic standards and excellence across the board.

How we do it

Drayton Manor has very high standards, and everyone, from staff to students, knows what is expected of them. This helps create what Ofsted describes as 'the extremely harmonious atmosphere', which enables us to help individuals make outstanding progress. We demand that our teachers have excellent subject knowledge and an intuitive understanding of the needs of our students. This means that they are adept not only at preparing our students for examinations but also at building students'

REPORT CARD

Drayton Manor High School

- » Head: Sir Pritpal Singh
- » West London
- » Academy
- » 1596 students, 200 staff
- » 240 students per year group (Years 7–11)
- » 26% special educational needs
- » 26% free school meals
- » Ofsted rating: outstanding



The school is proud of its long-standing record of its students progressing to top universities and trades

confidence so they are well prepared for their future lives. The school is proud of its long-standing record of its students progressing to top universities and trades. Every year the vast majority of our students go on to university. Of these, 77 students went on to Oxbridge or Russell Group universities or to medical and dentistry schools last year.

Our school motto is 'Nec Aspera Terrent' – 'Adversity is no deterrent' – and perfectly sums up the ethos of the school. We want our students to try and try again, to allow for failure but ultimately to succeed. This is no small undertaking for a school of 1600 students but at Drayton Manor we have developed a fundamental culture that inculcates the belief that every one of our students has potential. We take every subject seriously but insist on creativity and fun when learning. We not only teach the curriculum, we also teach how it fits in with the wider world.

Throughout the academic year we invite a number of speakers to the school to talk to our students and to share some of their experiences. We also have strong links with Highgate School, which works with our students and staff to offer

opportunities that broaden aspirations and develop wider skills. Recently, some of our Year 10 to Year 13 students interested in a career in media visited Highgate School to hear from a panel of speakers who are involved in many different areas of the media industry. All the students who attended spoke of how motivated they felt after the event, and how they wanted to push themselves harder so that they might eventually achieve their goals.

We host many visits from other parts of the world, recent ones being from Norway, Germany and Japan. These visits enrich life at Drayton Manor, and we are determined to help our students broaden their interests and experiences so that they become knowledgeable, rounded citizens. To this end, our extensive enrichment programme includes core activities for each year group, and students can add to these with many other trips, visits, clubs and opportunities. This is one of the reasons why the school has so much success in activities outside the classroom, whether in sports, music, drama or debating.

We take pride in the achievements of our students, be it the success of the school's dance festival, the triumph of a student in a maths challenge, or an outstanding achievement in a sporting event, such as our under 15s girls' football team reaching the English Schools National Final and, more recently, our under 18s boys' football teams' achievement of winning both the first and second XI Middlesex League Cup. To celebrate such events, we host regular coffee mornings and lunches, where the participating students meet and discuss their accomplishments with the Head and the Senior Leadership Team. We always take lots of photographs and run features on our school website so that we can share and celebrate our students' successes with the wider community.

We continually strive to improve our facilities and our environment for learning, this being demonstrated most recently by the opening of the new Sir Montagu Sharpe Building in January 2014. Named after the local historian and benefactor who donated the land for the school in the mid-1920s, this has provided staff and students with outstanding specialist facilities for the arts and the design and technology faculties. The demolition of the faculties' previous home has allowed us to create a flood-lit, all-weather play area on the site, which will be ready for use in September.

Being an academy, and having been a grant maintained school as far back as 1993, puts us in the best position to live up to the responsibilities we have by doing things the Drayton Manor way. The governing body has a wealth of experience, and we have had a succession of very able governors over the years who, through

their commitment to Drayton Manor, have contributed so admirably to the school's successes to date.

Finally, here is what the Director, Bill Watkin, from the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, thought about the school following a recent visit:

'One of the pleasures of my current role is the opportunity to visit many schools across the country and to see outstanding practise in action. This was a very special visit and I was deeply impressed by the seemingly limitless energy at Drayton Manor High School, by the cheerful engagement of the students and by the happy and productive atmosphere.'

Our work is by no means done, but such a reaction reassures us that we are doing something right.

“We not only teach the curriculum, we also teach how it fits in with the wider world”

We want our students to try and try again, to allow for failure, but ultimately to succeed

