



DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL

DRAYTON MANOR BIDS FAREWELL TO SIR PRITPAL SINGH

TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2020



The end of the autumn term is always a busy and exciting time at Drayton Manor High School with the prospect of Christmas on the horizon. However, this particular term it was also tinged with sadness as the school prepared to bid farewell to Sir Singh after more than 25 years of loyal service.

He joined Drayton Manor in 1994 and under his leadership the school has received many accolades including being awarded 'outstanding' by OFSTED in 2012 and being recognised in the *Queen's Diamond Jubilee Souvenir Album* in 2012 and *The Parliamentary Review* in 2014. The school site itself has also undergone some dramatic changes under his direction with the most recent building, the Dr Evans Building, which is home to the school's state of the art library, being completed in 2016.

In his final week Sir Singh invited his family to visit him in what has been his second home for the last two and a half decades. His sons remembered visiting the school as young boys and one of them made the long journey from New Zealand to mark his departure. They were given a tour of the school taking in all the buildings and sporting facilities. They enjoyed chatting to students and were impressed by their kindness and courtesy. After lunch in the Dining Hall there was then an opportunity to have some photographs taken on the famous Drayton Manor steps, the last to be taken of Sir Singh as Head of the school.

On his final day, Sir Singh addressed each year group for the last time in their end of term assemblies. He reflected on his time at the school and shared that one of the reasons he had stayed at Drayton Manor for such a long time was because of the students and staff from whom he said he continued to learn. He thanked students for their contribution to the life of the school before bidding them Happy Christmas and farewell.

Sir Singh received an enormous amount of retirement cards. Here is a small selection of some of the messages he received from across the year groups.

"After 25 years of service to Drayton Manor High School, we and our parents are extremely sad to see you leave. However, we know that you have provided us with the tools and experiences to be the very best versions of ourselves."

(Year 7 and Year 8)

"Every student who has passed through the school owes a great gratitude to you and all you have done. You have left an imprint on us that will stay with us forever."

(Year 9 and Year 10)

"The efforts you have put into re-imagining this school, improving numerous aspects, is admirable. Your knighthood exists as proof of your never-ending dedication to the staff and students at this school."

(Year 11)

"Your continuous dedication towards student learning and the school environment is unprecedented. For example, the excellent facilities which you have invested in such as the music department, the astroturf, numerous new buildings and many more."

(Year 12 and Year 13)

We hope that Sir Pritpal will come and see us again soon but in the meantime we would like to thank him for his service to the school and wish him a long and very happy retirement.