

THE DRAYTON CONNECTION

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



HEAD'S MESSAGE

This year we celebrate an extraordinary milestone - 95 years of Drayton Manor High School. Since its founding in 1930, our school has stood as a beacon of learning, ambition, and community spirit, shaping generations of young people and inspiring them to make a difference both locally and on the world stage.

This anniversary is not just a reflection on our past; it is a celebration of the vibrant present and an exciting glimpse into the future. Throughout this year, we will mark this occasion with a series of events and projects throughout the year that showcase the creativity, resilience, and talent of our students and staff. This work is already underway. From the 95th Celebration Design Project, where students demonstrated remarkable artistic flair, to the Ealing Half Marathon, which highlighted the strength of our community, these moments remind us of what makes Drayton Manor truly special.

I invite you to join us in commemorating this milestone, whether by exploring the inspiring student interviews, enjoying highlights from Drayfest 2025, or reconnecting through our growing alumni network. There will be a range of events and activities taking place throughout the academic year, including more opportunities for alumni to return to the school and reconnect. We look forward to sharing more information with you throughout the year and we look forward to the next chapter in our story.

Thank you for being part of this incredible journey.

SCHOOL'S 95TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

24 October marks a very special milestone in our school's history, 95 years of Drayton Manor. Throughout this time, our school has played a pivotal role in shaping the lives of young people within our community.

To mark this 95th year, we will be undertaking a series of activities celebrating the contributions our students have made both locally and beyond. We look forward to sharing this work with you. The first of these celebrations was a competition in which students designed commemorative merchandise for our anniversary, demonstrating their creativity and school pride.

SCHOOL'S 95TH CELEBRATION DESIGN PROJECT



Students were tasked with producing designs for a tote bag, mug, and t-shirt to celebrate the school's 95th year and we are thrilled to announce the shortlisted designs and the creativity, passion, and talent shown by our students have been truly inspiring. We couldn't be prouder. Congratulations to Lewis, Yusra, Bianca and Aaradhya.

Students have worked very hard to create the exceptional designs that captured the spirit of our school's anniversary. The designs were displayed in this summer's Drayfest. This event was a celebration and show of appreciation for the dedication and imagination our students have poured into their work.

To honour these outstanding achievements, we interviewed some of the students to find out about the inspiration behind their ideas:

Aaradhya

Did the school's history or legacy influence your ideas? If so, how?

Yes, the school's logo influenced me. You can see it on the mug, and the colour scheme appealed to me as well.

What message or feeling did you want the merchandise to express?

I wanted the mug to express the feeling of camaraderie in the school and the message of the school values of ambition, character and civic virtue.

Yusara

What message or feeling did you want the merchandise to express?

Hardships do not deter us. I wanted people to feel inspired when they look at my work.

What part of the project are you most proud of?

Definitely the end result. After going through so many stages, you feel very proud when you see it all pay off.

What did you learn from this project about design, marketing, or even yourself?

If you thrive to be the best, or you have the right mindset, anything is possible.

What does the school's 95th anniversary mean to you personally?

It makes me reflect on how so many people attended the school and how it has been here for so long; so many years and generations of people!

Lewis

What message or feeling did you want the merchandise to express?

I want to express the feeling of pride of the school and being a part of it.

Would you be interested in doing similar projects in the future?

Of course, I would be interested in doing it again, Art and DT are some of my favourite subjects and I love designing.

What does the school's 95th anniversary mean to you personally?

I am grateful to be a part of this and to be cemented in this pivotal moment in the school's history.

As you can see, a great deal of care, effort and pride went into these designs, and we are very proud and grateful to all students who took the time to create them and a huge congratulations to all shortlisted students and the competition winners.

PUTTING OUR BEST FOOT FORWARD: SCHOOL COMMUNITY RUN THE EALING HALF MARATHON!



On Sunday 23 September, eight brave teachers and six dedicated parents took on the challenge of running the Ealing Half Marathon to raise funds for the school PTA. The Ealing Half is a fully road-closed 13.1-mile (21.1 km) single-lap course through Central Ealing, Montpelier, Pitshanger, West Ealing, Hanwell and St Stephen's, finishing in Walpole Park.

While certainly not mountainous, the route is rolling, with a few gentle inclines (especially in the first half) that test even the most seasoned runners. All participants did an incredible job and were supported by a fantastic cheer squad at the front of the school, handing out water and jellies to keep everyone going. A great day was had by all, and everyone's legs have finally stopped aching now!

A huge thank you to all who participated, helped and donated. With special thanks to Sue, the PTA Chair, who organised the event and the following participants who raised almost £2,500 for the school and made it all happen!



Teachers: Mr Bayeh, Mr Boniface, Mr Johnston, Ms McNiff, Mr Jampani, Mr Patel and Ms Walker, Mr Obi.



Parents: ChihHao Chen, Mariona Sorrosal, Sujana Shakyia, Sanjeev Shrestha, Mike Green, Hannah Gordon & Monika Maniak-Griffiths.



Thank you also to the parents, staff and students who came and supported on the day at the front of the school!

DISCOVERING CLASSICAL OPERA WITH THE MOZARTISTS



The Mozartists are a classical orchestra founded in 1997. They are the leading exponents of the work of Mozart and his contemporaries. On Wednesday 10 September, we were delighted to welcome 6 members of the orchestra to the school. They began their visit with a workshop for 30 of our Year 9 students in the morning, with another in the afternoon for our Year 10 and 12 Music students.

During the workshops, students learned more about the social and cultural issues relating to the works of Mozart. They were treated to performances from two world-class opera singers and became the first people in the world to hear works which haven't been performed since their original performances over 200 years ago!



Students thoroughly enjoyed the whole project and have developed a new appreciation for opera.

ALUMNI VISIT - HARNOOR AND SIMRIT



We were honoured to host Harnoor and Simrit (alumni) to the school to host a sixth form assembly. The sisters have been volunteering with the Sovereign Minds SPEAR Oratory Prize which challenges students to speak and present on important social and global issues. Sixth formers showed a keen interest in the project and were pleased to hear about the fantastic journey that the alumni have been on since leaving school. The prize offers students a chance to speak in the Houses of Parliament and the winner will receive a prize of £10,000 to support their first year of university. Fingers crossed for Drayton Manor Sixth Formers!



YEAR 12 STUDENT ESMA'S WORK BOUGHT TO LIFE

Last year, Esma in Year 12 won a competition to produce an art installation for our beautiful sixth form building. Esma and other students worked throughout the academic year with ceramicist Charlotte Moore.



An Exceptional ceramicist, Charlotte was selected for the headline "award" section of the British Ceramics Biennial which is a leading contemporary ceramics event. Esma's design has been brought to life and is being enjoyed by the schools' community. Ceramicist Charlotte Moore will be returning to work with students again next term.

DRAYFEST 2025: AN EVEN BIGGER CELEBRATION OF TALENT AND CREATIVITY



Drayfest 2025 was our most exciting festival yet! Building on last year's amazing success, this year's event was even bigger and better, spotlighting the incredible talents of our students and staff across Music, Art, Drama, Science, Humanities, PE, Design Technology, and more. The whole school community came together for a day full of inspiring performances, exhibitions, and interactive displays that truly celebrated creativity and passion. We were delighted to welcome parents and friends to join the festivities, making it a memorable occasion for everyone involved. From dynamic stage performances to breathtaking artwork and innovative projects, Drayfest 2025 was the perfect way to cap off the summer term in style!

WATCH THIS [INCREDIBLE VIDEO](#) TO ENJOY THE HIGHLIGHTS.



95-YEAR CELEBRATION: SIGN UP TO JOIN OUR ALUMNI NETWORK!

This year marks a monumental milestone for Drayton Manor High School, 95 years of shaping young minds and fostering lifelong connections! As part of the celebration, we're inviting all alumni to reconnect and join our growing alumni network. Stay updated on special events, share your stories, and be a part of the legacy. Don't miss out! Sign up today by clicking this link and help us commemorate this incredible milestone!

BECOME AN ALUMNI AMBASSADOR – INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

We are at a pivotal and exciting stage in our journey as a school community, building meaningful, lasting connections with our alumni. As we grow this network, we are proud to launch our Alumni Ambassador programme. We are seeking passionate former students who want to give back, share their experiences, and make a difference to the life of the school. Whether you left last year or decades ago, your journey matters. As an Alumni Ambassador, you will act as a bridge between the school and its alumni community, helping to support current students through mentoring, events, outreach, and more. This is a rewarding opportunity to contribute to the life of the school, inspire young people, and strengthen the legacy of our alumni family.

Join us. Be part of the next chapter. All prospective Alumni Ambassadors will be subject to relevant safer recruitment and safeguarding checks, as the safety and wellbeing of our students is central to everything we do. Click [here](#) for more information.

Please encourage any alumni who have not signed-up to do so at draytonians@draytonmanorhighschool.co.uk

