



Drayton Manor students demonstrated magnificent ambition, character and civic virtue in their learning and extra-curricular activities this term. Students deserve to be commended for their achievements. They have been actively engaged in school based and community activities which make a huge difference to the lives of others. We are pleased to share with you this bumper edition of the school newsletter. Happy reading!

**ALICE GROSS MEMORIAL SONG WRITING AWARD**



The Alice Gross Memorial Song Writing Award, funded by the Ealing Music Service, was set up to commemorate Brentside High School student Alice Gross who was a talented musician and song writer. Our student **Erin (13.2)** is the most recent winner of this award.

On Friday 3 March, the school hosted the special award ceremony where the Award was given to Erin by Councillor Mohinder Midha, the Mayor of Ealing and Councillor Julian Gallant. Erin's family was also in attendance. Erin was proud to receive such positive feedback for her song and win the award. She said she loves to compose music because song writing is a way to share her experiences with others. The winning song 'You've Changed' is about friendship, and the challenges that can arise in friendships.



Winning the award has led to many exciting opportunities for Erin, such as recording

the song at the British Grove Studios, a professional recording space owned by Mark Knopfler. She also had the opportunity to audition at the Royal Albert Hall and performed at the Hanwell Hootie with her friends.

Erin has many goals for her musical career. She plans to perform as much as she can after completing her A Levels and hopes to play at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe while at university. She plans to release an EP later this year!

We wish Erin all the best and look forward to her next release.

**MERIT AWARD**



Congratulations to Year 7 to 10 students who received merit awards for their significant effort, achievement, and involvement in extra-curricular and school community activities since the Autumn Term. We are immensely proud of our students and their achievements and look forward to celebrating more students in the Summer Term.

**CULTURE DAY**



Drayton Manor is an inclusive and diverse community. We have more than 1500 students and staff with diverse cultural backgrounds, speaking over 63 languages. To celebrate our school's diversity, we organised the first-ever Culture Day on Friday 24 March, fostering an interest in different cultures among students through language, musical

performance, literature and special activities in lessons.

Before start of school and during break time, students visited teachers of different departments to conduct 'culture investigation' and found out how many languages they could speak. Students said they were excited to know that some teachers speak the same language as they do. The Music Department also arranged a performance of several popular Latin American musical pieces by our 23 piece school orchestra. Conducted by Mr Vesey, our talented musicians played a short repertoire including 'Last Minute Latin', 'Tango' and 'Cha Cha'. **Luca (9G)** played another Latin American piece on solo flute, followed by an improvisation played by **Amir (13.8)** on the Saxophone. **Prince (10G)** played a solo composed by Giovanni Bottesini on the Double Bass. The event was a fantastic opportunity for all students to experience music from different cultures.



Another excellent way to promote diversity and culture is acting! Students including **Yali (7E)**, **Minnie (8I)** and **Fatima (7L)** flexed their drama muscles when they performed speeches of Shakespeare's Hamlet 'To be or not to be'. They showcased their acting and language abilities when they performed the speech in Spanish, Arabic, Ancient Greek, Japanese and Creole.

There will be two more Culture Day celebrations in the Summer Term, where we will showcase food, dress and dance. Students can't wait to take part in these exciting activities.

**YEAR 9 CAREER TASTER DAY**

March has been a busy month for Year 9 students as they make their subject choices for their GCSE exams. To help students make informed decisions, on Wednesday 8 March, the careers team organised a full-day of



workshops with eight Drayton Manor alumni as well as representatives of companies who came to talk about their careers. The speakers came from a range of backgrounds including – aerospace engineering, film and photograph, broadcast media, retail and the civil service as well as successful entrepreneurs.



Chaz, an alumna who graduated in 2006, shared her career stories. She is the Head of Operations for a sports coaching company, Super Star Sport West London, which inspires primary-aged students and toddlers from nurseries to have a love of sports. It was the first time she had visited school since her departure, and she enjoyed reflecting on her time here. Chaz encouraged students to work on things they genuinely enjoy, always be courageous and have back-up plans. A big thank you to our speakers; Drayton Manor alumni Ms C Degun, Mr M Ali, Dr J Bolaji, Mr A Shareefy, Miss S Sykes and Mr H Woods, and external speakers Mr M Benjamin and Mr B Smith. If parents and carers and alumni are interested in supporting career talks and workshops at the school or offering wider life experiences for our students, please contact our Careers Coordinator Mr Vvedenskiy at [eve@draytonmanorhighschool.co.uk](mailto:eve@draytonmanorhighschool.co.uk)

THE BRILLIANT CLUB



On Tuesday 28 February, 40 Year 10 and 12 students visited Goldsmith University of London to attend the graduation ceremony for the Brilliant Club programme. They were taken on a tour of the campus, met some current students, and attended an information session about applying to the university.

The Brilliant Club programme aims to build students' confidence and skills to apply to leading universities and colleges. Since November 2022, students have attended five weekly tutorial sessions at the school conducted by PhD tutors in various subjects such as literature, psychology, and history. They have been challenged to think critically, and have learned some vital study techniques, such as referencing, and composing a 2000-word essay.

Students said they learned new knowledge and skills and the course stretched them academically. Layan (10F) said although she found the programme a bit challenging, she learned a lot from it and now better understands the expectations for university study. Ahmed (12.5) said the programme has helped him develop problem solving skills. Congratulations to all graduates of the programme:

Aisha	10E	Gurleen	10E
Alexandros	10E	Zishan	10E
Reem	10F	Layan	10F
Jayda	10F	Mehdi	10G
Nokuthaba	10G	Sara	10G
Sienna	10G	Begum	10G
Eman	10G	Hup Seng	10H
Oliver	10I	Leo	10I
Riste	10I	Nikita	10I
Muhammed	10J	Julia	10J
Hussain	10K	Daniel	10K
Sami	10K	Kristiana	10L
Sahil	10L	Ariana	10E
Sarah	12.1	Muna	12.2
Roweda	12.2	Lois	12.2
Priya	12.3	Ilham	12.3
Mahad	12.4	Lily	12.4
Muhammad	12.4	Diana	12.4
Ahmed	12.5	Ravleen	12.5
Pedro	12.6	Phoebe	12.6
Katharine	12.7	Violet	12.7
Lima	12.7	Benjamin	12.7
Nadia	12.8	Pouya	12.8

There will be the opportunity for more students to participate in the next round so watch this space!

LEARNING BRITAIN'S MEDIEVAL HISTORY BEYOND CLASSROOMS



On Friday 10 March, 14 Year 9 students attended exhibitions in the Tower of London and explored King William I's fortress and palace, the White Tower and prison cells built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

The visit was fully funded by the University of Oxford's three year Inspire Scholar programme for Year 9 students to develop interests, build learning skills and consider future career options. Students gained a lot from the trip, and said that the in-person experience in historical settings motivated them to learn more about this significant era of national history.

Since Autumn Term, our Year 9 'Inspire Scholars' have been attending learning sessions in history, art and STEM which were held after school. Students are looking forward to the next big event – the Virtual Summer School week. The Summer School will offer a range of activities, such as academic taster sessions from Oxford tutors in both STEM and Arts and Humanities Subjects and career interviews from a range of professionals. Selected students could also take part in the summer school on campus.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR TALK



For the past seven years, Mr Harry Olmer, a Holocaust survivor, has generously travelled



from North London to spend the day at Drayton Manor, sharing his stories with our students. His visit has become a proud tradition and privilege for Drayton Manor. On Monday 20 March, with warm greetings from the student leadership team, we gratefully welcomed him for another day of stories of courage and resilience. During a special assembly in the Hall for Year 11, Mr Olmer's speech captivated students as he walked them through his first-hand accounts of the Holocaust including how he had survived three concentration camps. Mr Olmer said what impressed him the most about our students was the quality of questions they asked at the end of the talk. Many students stayed after the talk to ask him more questions. Many expressed their deep gratitude for him visiting our school. It was a delight to witness how this visit enhanced the character of our students. Mr Olmer explained that treating others with honour and respect is essential. This embodies the civic virtue which all Draytonians aspire.

**DOING GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY**



The House system forms a crucial part of school life at Drayton Manor. House activities, planned and organised by House Captains, encourage students to do good for others and contribute to a better community. On Tuesday 14 March, the Library hosted a student-led, food themed quiz to raise awareness about the Ealing Food Bank. In addition, a series of House competitions were launched, with students gaining House points by donating food items for the food bank. The House Captains have been impressed with the civic virtue and excellent character our student body has shown with their donations. Students will visit the Ealing Food Bank to donate food collected after the term break, and we will update you in our next newsletter.

**WARHAMMER ALLIANCE CLUB**

Our first Warhammer Alliance Club, began meeting in January every Wednesday after school, and has grown steadily as students from all year groups begin to join in. Warhammer is a game which encourages



collaboration and sharing knowledge and expertise, as students develop creativity, strategy and problem solving skills, and learn about the fascinating future worlds and characters of Warhammer. Whether it's the creative aspect of building or painting, to the strategic thinking needed to win and work as a team, there's something for everyone! The models students have created have been impressive, and we look forward to welcoming new student (and staff!) members in the summer term. Thank you to **Iskander (9L)** who has introduced the club and who has dedicated great energy to running it every week.

**MONOLOGUE SLAM**



The drama club organised a variety of performances, including students' own monologue SLAM show in which they competed with their favourite Shakespeare monologue as well as duologue. We are proud to announce that **Fatima (7L)** won first in the competition, followed by **Laurence (7F)** and **Alicja (8G)**. They will represent the school in a national competition. Watch this space for details soon.

**CAREERS**

This term, we organised some exciting employment taster sessions, talks and trips for students across the year groups to help them make informed decisions about their future.

**Year 7**



On Monday 21 March and Tuesday 22 March, 30 Year 7 students attended an Enterprise & Maths Challenge Day and became event managers for a large-scale concert with 10,000 young people attending. Students worked in groups, using creativity, Maths and analytical skills, to design their own concerts that were profitable and can reach out to the right audience. They decided the ticketing arrangements, prices, target revenue and potential performers in the concert. Students also built and decorated their 3D stage layout models. They showed exceptional confidence when they presented their concert project in front of the class and had so many creative ideas for their concerts. While having fun, students developed their mathematical skills as well as teamwork, problem-solving, communication and presentation skills.

**Year 8**

**The Bartlett, University of College London's Faculty of Built Environment**



Using imagination and design skills, on Wednesday 1 March, Year 8 students spent the day imagining and creating open spaces where human and wildlife can live and thrive. Led by instructors from the Bartlett, University of College London's Faculty of Built Environment, students worked in teams to explore design techniques to build a three-dimensional paper collage, including plants, skyscrapers and houses. Instructors showed them the concept of space and urban planning when students studied their collage they created in detail using a special camera. Students enjoyed the chance to think and build a community like architects. The workshop was fun and allowed them to work



together with their classmates. As a follow up to this workshop, at the end of April, students will visit the university's campus in Hackney, London, where the installations that they developed at school will be displayed in an extended and interactive space.

**Designing National Train Station**



What should an inclusive train station be? According to Year 8, there should be gardens with trees and flowers and facilities available for people from all backgrounds visiting the stations.

On Friday 24 March, Year 8 students took part in a career workshop to design their dream train stations for Network Rail. They learned about the railway industry in the country, shared innovative ideas for train stations, and worked across tutor groups to solve problems and present their ideas. They also learned effective ways of tackling difficult conversations with stakeholders.

**Year 10  
Rise Programme**



On Thursday 23 March, 60 Year 10 students attended 'The Seven Steps to Rise', a workshop to develop employability skills such as teamwork and analytical and communication skills. Working in groups, students engaged in discussions about their strengths, and aspirations for study and careers. They worked on real-life challenges such as improving the finance of the school summer fair and selecting team members for a business. The workshop was led by volunteers from international accounting firms such as KPMG, BDO and Moore Kingston Smith.

**Year 12  
Maven Securities**



10 Year 12 students who expressed interests in finance and accounting attended a career mentorship programme between November and March in Maven Securities, an international tech trading company in Central London. During the programme, students worked with students from other high schools. They received career coaching sessions with staff, which gave students insights into about the real business world. Students had very positive feedback on the experience, especially the excellent guidance from staff.

**PwC Pathway**

Eight students took part in a four-week career taster programme in global professional service company PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). Students attended online meetings to learn about various career streams such as accounting, business management and technology, and the application processes for the 'Flying Start' apprenticeship programme offered by PwC.

After the online sessions, on Tuesday 21 March, students visited the company's office in Central London for an in-person networking session, where they met some current apprentices and staff. Students learned more about the daily work of the apprentices, practical tips on applying to the apprenticeship programmes and insights into the real-world business.

This summer, students will have the opportunity to attend the company's online virtual work experience.

**University of Cambridge Talk**



The careers team invited current students of the University of Cambridge to talk about

applying to the university. Our students learned some practical tips for preparing the application. This included super-curricular for subjects that students want to study, writing personal statement and preparing for the university's assessment tests. The Cambridge students shared their personal application experiences, and encouraged our students to ask teachers to proofread their statement, and to work on past papers when preparing for assessment tests.

Our students found the talk informative and inspiring. They said they would start preparing for the application as soon as possible and prepare well for the personal statement and assessment.

**UCAS Exhibition**

The annual UCAS Discovery Exhibition in ExCel, London was held on Tuesday 28 March. Year 12 students attended the exhibition where they were able to find out about opportunities in over 100 universities and colleges in the UK, meet potential employers for apprenticeships, and attend talks by experts who gave practical advice on writing personal statement and CV. Whether they had clear future plans or not, students said they had better ideas of their future careers after they attended the exhibition.

After the term break, the careers team will organise two more university trips for Year 12 to learn more about university life.

**TRIPS FOR PHYSICS STUDENTS**

March was a good month for Year 12 Physics students!

On Friday 10 March, they visited the Rutherford Appleton Lab (RAL) in Oxfordshire to learn how the scientists work to find solutions to challenges facing society today.

Students took part in talks by leading particle physicists from RAL and the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN). They attended a tour of a particle accelerator (Diamond Light Source), and learned how the scientists accelerate high energy particles to try to create heavier elements and use data from the Large Hadron Collider to find evidence for the Higgs particles. They also learned ATLAS, the largest particle detector experiment in CERN, were able to confirm the prediction by the Standard Model that elementary particles acquire mass via interacting with the Higgs Field and Higgs particles. Students find the visit inspiring and the experience sparks greater interests in Physics.

On Tuesday 28 March, the University of College London invited 16 aspiring Physics



students to attend a Masterclass where they used computers to study real particle collisions from the ATLAS experiment. Students also attended a video conference led by scientists at CERN, and presented their results with students at other universities across Europe. During the visit, students met physicists from the university and learned more about Large Hadron Collider and the discovery of Higgs particles.

**GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP FOR YEAR 12**



On Friday 17 March, Year 12 Geography students headed to Cromer in North Norfolk to undertake a weekend of their physical and human field studies.

On the first day, students attended an IT workshop to learn about collecting, presenting, and analyzing geographical data. They researched data collection methods and evaluated the reliability and limitations of these methods. Being great Geographers, the students were undeterred by the weather, showing great ambition and spending time outdoors on the second and third day to apply their learning. They visited Salhouse Beach, Sheringham Beach and West Runton Beach, where they collected data in order to compare the beach profiles, pebble sizes and fetch. A few students even found a Cancer pagurus crab (otherwise known as Edible/ Brown Crab), which is normally found on coasts near the North Atlantic Ocean. On the final day students visited Cromer town centre. Here they learned about the socio-economic impact of urban regeneration on a predominantly ageing demographic and local businesses. Following the trip, students will be putting together findings and writing reports for their Non-Examined Assessment. We wish them the best of luck.

**MATHS FEAST FOR YEAR 10**



On Monday 13 March, two teams of four Year 10 students, led by Maths teacher Ms King and Zahra (13.6), attended the incredibly popular Maths Feast organised by Advanced Mathematics Support Programme in Notting Hill & Ealing High School.

Maths Feast is a fun educational maths challenge for students to develop their problem solving and teamwork skills. There are four rounds of questions, each with a different emphasis, with students working either individually, in pairs or as a team. Each round is time limited, so students must manage their time well to get the best scores. Teams collaborate to find solutions, which lead to mathematical conversations which were a joy to behold. The two teams showed great resilience and determination and can't wait to show the puzzles to the rest of their classmates.

**RED NOSE DAY 'HEAD-TO-HEAD'**



On Friday 17 March Red Nose Day, our Sixth Form students and teachers went 'head-to-head' in a general knowledge quiz to raise awareness for child poverty.

The student team, Beth (13.4), Dilvir (13.8), Zahra (13.6) and Adam (13.6), were challenging competition against the staff team of Mr Poole, Ms Ramgi, Ms Fox and Mr Coughlan. The final result was 8:7 in favour of the staff.

Well done to all involved in supporting Comic Relief, a global charity which helps people to break free from poverty.

**BOOSTING SKILLS FOR ECONOMICS**



On Tuesday 28 March and Wednesday 29 March, Year 13 Economics students attended an Economics study skills workshop by popular YouTuber Mr Virang Dal. He is very good at making economics fun and engaging for students to help them grasp key concepts of the subject and exam techniques easily. Students who are working hard in preparing for their A levels enjoyed Mr Dal's workshop, and greatly benefited from his teaching.

**STUDENT STEM NEWSLETTER**

The STEM HUB Newsletter for Spring Term is out! Students took part in the Science Week and a variety of competitions and visits. They built up their STEM skills as well earned points for their Houses. Check details [here](#).

**SPORTS**

In this busy season, our teams remained strong achieving excellent results in numerous fixtures. Thank you to staff and Sixth Form students who helped coach the teams as well as players who worked so hard during training and competitions.

**Football - Girls**



The Under 14 Girls has performed consistently well in the League competition. Their most recent victory was 6-2 against their opponents. They have won 4 out of 5 matches and have one left to play.

The squad was unbeaten in the Borough Cup competition and made it through to the semi-final. An early goal from the opposition



knocked the team's confidence but they were able to hold it 2-0 at the end of the first half. **Eloise (7K)** and **Yui (7L)** came on as substitutes in the second half, and made an immediate impact. They were determined in their play and confidently went into tackles against the bigger opponents. Goalkeeper **Selma (8G)** made some incredible saves as well. At the final whistle, the score was 4-0 and our team won.

**Football - Boys**

The Under 13 Boys squad continued to train with passion and clear drive to improve. They secured their most recent 2-1 win, but narrowly lost 5-4 to Alec Reed Academy. Their League competition record is 2-2 with two matches remaining. The Under 15 Boys currently have a 3-2 record in the League competition. They had back-to-back winning games so far. They have three matches left to play to determine where they can finish this season. The Under 18 1st XI have only lost once in the Borough League competition, and their record is 4-1-1. Their final position is still to be decided.



The Under 18 2nd XI performed consistently throughout the Borough Cup competition and made it to the Final. Our players put on a decent performance. At the final whistle the score was 3-0 to the opposition. The 2nd XI took home the silver medals in the Under 18 Ealing Borough Cup.

After the success of the friendly matches our Under 18 teams played last year against University College School (UCS) at their grounds, we had the opportunity to return the favour and host their teams this term. The 3rd XI and 4th XI squads faced off against the UCS Under 16 B and C teams. It was a fantastic afternoon of football and our players displayed ambition, great character and civic virtue throughout. We hope the team can continue this tradition on next season.

**Boys Basketball**

The Year 7 boys have continued to show superb attitude in training, working hard to improve individual skills and team tactics, and

numbers have remained high since the start of the season. In January, they played a friendly match with Brentside High School which they won.



After a strong start to the season the Junior Boys team were delighted when they were selected to represent Ealing in the London Youth Games. Unfortunately, they faced a very experienced team in the second round but they were inspired to see the level of basketball that they hope to reach. In the Ealing League, the team showed great consistency and were unbeaten throughout the season, being awarded Ealing Borough Champions in the final.



It has been another strong season for the Senior Boys team. They have performed consistently in training and competition. They were unbeaten in the League which led them to play in the Ealing Final. They convincingly won the game and brought home the gold medals.

**Girls Netball**

The Year 7 squad had a solid performance this season, winning 4 out of 6 league matches. They were drawn in a tough pool in the Borough Tournament and placed third after round-robin play. They narrowly beat another team to come second place overall in the League competition.

The Year 8 squad has shown great resilience this year. In the League, they secured one win and two losses. They placed third in their pool in the Borough Tournament. At the end of the League season, the Year 8 squad was tied on points, but thanks to the team's goal scoring efforts, they took second place overall.



The Year 9 squad has been playing well throughout the season and they were a semi-finalist in the Borough Tournament. Through the League competition, the squad was undefeated. They finished in second place in the League based on goal difference and took the silver medals.

The Year 10 squad won second place in the Borough Tournament. They have only suffered one loss in the League competition so they are in a good position to take medals home. Their final League position is yet to be decided. The Seniors were semi-finalists in the Borough Tournament. With only one loss in the competition, they finish in second place overall in the League.

**Trampoline**

On Wednesday 22 February, Drayton Manor hosted the Ealing Borough Trampoline Competition. We entered teams into the novice, intermediate, and elite competitions. The squad had demonstrated strong character and ambition in the training sessions before the competition - training before and after school with Ms Davey to perfect their routines. The commitment and dedication of the students paid off with some outstanding performances on the day.





This was the first trampoline competition for the novice team – **Ifra (8F)**, **Evelyn (7K)**, **Munira (8F)** had entered and they all worked hard to perform their routines. Congratulations to students for winning silver medals as a team and **Evelyn (7K)** as the winner of the individual gold medal.



The intermediate team - **Maroua (8K)**, **Mabel (9G)**, **Aeronwen (8J)**, **Isabel (8G)** demonstrated fantastic resilience throughout the day as well as quality movements within the routines. As a result, they were awarded gold medals for the team performance. The individual gold medal went to **Isabel (8G)**, and the individual silver medal went to **Aeronwen (8J)**.



The elite team – **Evie (9H)**, **Melissa (8J)** performed exceptionally well, and this led them to win the team gold medal, with individual gold for **Evie (9H)** and individual bronze for **Melissa (8J)**.

**Cross Country**



On Wednesday 22 March, Drayton Manor entered the Ealing Borough Cross Country Relay Championships.

The Girls team included **Sofia (7G)**, **Anastazja (8G)**, **Mabel (9G)**, **Naimah (9F)** and **Katharine (12.7)**. Sofia, Mabel and Naimah all recorded fastest leg times for their respective 1500m laps and the team achieved second place in the competition.

While the Boys team comprised **Jonathan (7K)**, **Marzio (8K)**, **Huw (9H)**, **Dante (9K)** and **Dilan (10J)**. The team came in third place. In the summer term, we will be running Cricket, Rounders and Athletics clubs. More information will be shared with students, parents and carers soon.

**FAREWELLS**

We would like to wish Mr Kundi the best of luck and thank him for his work as he will be shortly moving on to pastures new. Mr Crawford will be joining the school as a new Head of Year 10 and will be in contact to introduce himself next term to families.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

We would like to wish all our students and their families a wonderful holiday. We will bring you more updates and activities in the Summer Term. See you on Monday 17 April.



**PARENT AND CARER BULLETIN**

END OF SPRING TERM - FRIDAY 31 MARCH  
Spring Term Break: 3 -14 April  
First day of Summer Term: 17 April

EVENTS FOR FIRST TWO WEEKS BACK  
University of Bath Trip for Year 12  
Thursday 20 April  
Friday 21 April  
8:30am – 5pm

University of Cambridge Trip for Year 10  
Monday 24 April  
8am – 5:30pm

Lunchtime Music for Students  
Wednesday 26 April  
Period 4 and 5  
Hall

Year 11 and 13 group photographs  
Thursday 27 April  
Period 1  
Dryden Playground

**EVENTS FOR PARENTS**

Year 7 Parents' Evening (Online)  
Thursday 27 March  
4:30-7pm  
Letter of the event will be shared with parents and carers separately

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