



This academic year is progressing splendidly, and the excitement and anticipation within our community continues to flourish.

Drayton Manor is in full swing this Autumn term, buzzing with a wide array of enrichment activities, clubs, music competitions, trips, and much more. We are pleased to meet the new Year 7 students, and to see students across all year groups returning to school with great enthusiasm and aspiration. In this edition of our newsletter, we capture the essence of our school's dynamic environment, showcasing our innovative strides and the remarkable accomplishments of our students.

What a great start the students have made to the term!

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:

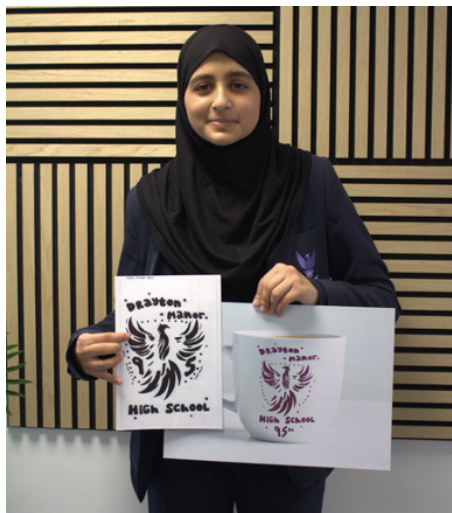
Students were tasked with producing designs for a tote bag, mug, and t-shirt to celebrate the school's 95th year and we are thrilled to announce the shortlisted designs and the creativity, passion, and talent shown by our students have been truly inspiring. We couldn't be prouder. Congratulations to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



EXAM RESULTS

We are proud to celebrate the exceptional achievements of our students in the 2025 GCSE and A-level exam series.

31% of grades at A level were A* - A and 63% A* - B, with an ALPS score of 2, which places the sixth form results in the top 10% of schools and colleges nationally.

This year there is no national progress score for GCSE although the school mirrored its strong performance of last year with an attainment score of 55.9. These outstanding results not only highlight the hard work, determination, and resilience of our students, but also the unwavering support from families and the dedication of our teachers.

WATCH THE 'SPIRIT OF DRAYFEST'

It was a delight to host our annual Drayfest festival last term. The festival is an opportunity to celebrate students' achievements from all areas of school life. We hope you enjoy this highlight reel which captures the spirit of the event. Click [here](#).



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.



EPHING FOREST BIOLOGY TRIP

written by Fahad Ali (student)

During the Epping Forest field trip, we had the opportunity to employ various sampling methods. These methods included Random Sampling, Systematic Sampling, and Stratified Sampling, which we used in 3 separate habitats with different characteristics.

Following this, we had the opportunity to conduct our own investigation using any of the sampling methods we had learned. This

then helped us do our write-ups for our core biology required practical, for which we had to plot our results for the data we collected into tables, then graphs. We also had to do stats tests for our investigations. Depending on the research we carried out, the tests were either a student's T-test or Spearman's rank correlation. We thought this field trip helped us understand to a better degree the three sampling methods, the importance of carrying out sampling methods correctly, and how to do stats tests. We also feel that this experience helped us write our write-ups to a better quality as we were able to get hands-on experience.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS THROUGH MENTORING

Mentoring is known to be a highly successful way of learning and supporting people to achieve their goals. Drayton Manor has partnered with Brightside Mentoring to offer mentoring opportunities to our Year 11 students. Brightside Mentoring provides students the opportunity to connect with inspirational role models and receive bespoke, online mentoring to help them make confident and informed decisions about their future.

Students participate in the programme each week. Mentees choose their own mentors and engage at their own pace, with a flexible commitment and high impact. Over 12 weeks, mentoring pairs communicate via the safeguarded Brightside Mentoring app through messages or video calls, based on mentees' preference. Mentees complete self-assessment tools at the beginning and end of the programme to measure the progress they have made against the programme outcomes.

EXPLORING HIGHER EDUCATION OPTIONS

We are always proud to see the Ambition displayed by our students when they look to their future, whether that is in the workplace or academic aspirations. This is certainly true when students explore options to apply to prestigious universities, such as Oxford or Cambridge.

YEAR 13 TRIP TO JESUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

Four ambitious Year 13 students, visited Jesus College Cambridge University last month, as part of exploring their higher education options.

They learned about the admissions process

and assessments for STEM, Arts, and Humanities. They were also given valuable advice about preparing for interviews, including mock interviews, and what to include in Personal Statements.

YEAR 12 VISIT TO ST JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD



At the beginning of October, a group of twenty Year 12 students went to St John's College, Oxford, to attend a workshop that introduced them to the Oxbridge application process. The day included a tour of St John's College, which was founded in the 16th century, and Wadham College, which was founded in 1610.



The students all behaved impeccably and were clearly excited by the idea of studying at Oxford University. When saying goodbye to our hosts at St John's, one student said 'See you in 2027!', exhibiting the kind of confidence and ambition that we expect from Drayton Manor students. We wish all students the best in their applications!

HOUSE MUSIC FESTIVAL

The annual Drayton Manor House music festival is one of the highlights of the school year, and this year was no exception. Over two days, 30 September and 1 October, nearly 200 students participated to win points for their Houses. Students work hard to develop their craft, and this hard work was evident in the performances.



The variety of styles, instruments and creative expression was a delight. The school was treated to performances from soloists on a range of instruments including piano, clarinet and cello to bands who had prepared and even arranged their own material.



The overall winners were Phoenix with an incredible 702 House Points. The school community is very proud of all students for the Ambition and Character they displayed throughout the event.



EALING SCHOOL'S CROSS COUNTRY AND LONDON YOUTH GAMES

Here at Drayton Manor we are very proud of our sporting record, and enjoy participating in competitions across the Ealing Borough and beyond.

On Thursday 2nd October, a team of 16 students, ranging from Year 7 to Year 12, travelled to Berkely Playing Fields where they proudly represented the school at The Ealing

Borough Cross Country Championships. In total, 311 athletes, from 15 schools, participated in the championship.



Drayton Manor achieved an impressive 4th place overall. Across the six races, our athletes secured six top-ten finishes, with the Year 9/10 Boys' team placing 3rd overall. Notably, four students delivered exceptional individual performances, Sofia and Naimah earning two gold, and Dante and Owen receiving two bronze medals. We now look forward to confirmation of which of our students have qualified to represent the Borough of Ealing at the upcoming Middlesex Cross Country Championships.

Congratulations to:

Naimah	12.2
Dante	12.3
Cordelia	10G
Kalell	10G
Sofia	10G
Mabli	7F
Charlotte	7H
Lenny	7I
Ace	7J
Anes	7J
Codie	8H
Elsie	8H
Kensuke	9G
Owen	9I
Megan	9L
Bartosz	10H
Gemma	8H
Charlie	10E
Brody	7F

UNDER 18 FOOTBALL



The Ealing Borough Football League season re-commenced on Monday 13th October. Drayton Manor High School has entered a total of ten league and cup competitions across various age groups. Upcoming fixtures include the Year 7 Boys' team versus Ada Lovelace, the U15 1st XI against Villiers High School, and the Year 7 Girls' team taking on Twyford. In addition, fixtures for the Ealing Netball League are currently being scheduled, with borough-wide tournaments planned for the next half term. These will begin with the Senior tournament on 20th November. Junior and Senior Boys' Basketball Clubs are also scheduled to begin later in the academic year.



U18 FOOTBALL MATCHES VS ST BENEDICT'S

Drayton Manor High School hosted St Benedict's School on Wednesday 8th October in an exciting double header of Under 18 football fixtures for the DMU Inaugural Cup. Both matches were played in excellent spirit, showcasing good sportsmanship and mutual respect between the two schools.

In the 1st Team match, Drayton Manor showed tremendous determination and discipline to avenge last season's narrow defeat. A strong defensive display and moments of attacking flair saw them secure a hard-fought victory, demonstrating the team's character and growth over the past year. The 2nd Team followed suit, producing a confident and composed performance to claim another win for Drayton Manor. Their teamwork and resilience under pressure epitomised the values of the school's football programme.



With victories in both fixtures, Drayton Manor High School were crowned champions of the DMU Inaugural Cup, marking a proud moment for the players, coaches, and supporters alike.

HAMPTON SCHOOL

Drayton Manor High School vs Hampton School – U18 Football Fixtures Report
On Wednesday the 24th September, Drayton Manor High School's U18 football teams faced Hampton School across three competitive fixtures in a showcase of skill, determination, and team spirit. The highly anticipated set of matches concluded with honours even, as each school secured one win and one draw, with one defeat. With the prestigious Hampton Cup on the line, Drayton's performance in the 1st XI fixture ensured the trophy was shared between the two schools. **U18 1st XI – Drayton Manor 4–1 Hampton School**

Venue: Home | Result: Win

The 1st XI put on a commanding display, securing a 4-1 victory over a strong Hampton side. From the outset, Drayton Manor controlled possession and created chances, with sharp attacking play rewarded by two goals in the first half. Despite a brief Hampton resurgence after the break, Drayton's defence held firm, and two further goals sealed a deserved win. The result meant Drayton lifted half of the Hampton Cup honours, a testament to the squad's quality and leadership.

U18 2nd XI – Drayton Manor 3–3 Hampton School

Venue: Away | Result: Draw

In a thrilling encounter, the 2nd XI battled to an entertaining 3-3 draw. The match was a back-and-forth affair, with both sides showing attacking intent and scoring spectacular goals. Drayton showed great resilience, coming from behind twice to level the match and push for a late winner. Ultimately, both teams had to settle for a point, reflecting the balance of play in a well-fought contest.

U18 3rd XI – Drayton Manor 2–3 Hampton School

Venue: Away | Result: Loss

The 3rd XI came close to securing a result but were narrowly beaten 3-2 in a competitive fixture. Drayton Manor showed great character, equalising twice in the match before Hampton managed to grab a decisive third goal late on. Despite the loss, the team displayed discipline and determination, with several standout performances across the pitch.

Summary

Team	Result	Score
1st XI	Win	4–1
2nd XI	Draw	3–3
3rd XI	Loss	2–3

Drayton Manor's U18 squads can take pride in their overall performance against a respected opposition. With a strong win for the 1st XI, a spirited comeback in the 2nd XI fixture, and a closely contested 3rd XI match, the fixtures demonstrated the depth of talent and unity across the school's football programme.

Congratulations to all players and staff involved!

TAEKWON-DO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SUCCESS



Lorenzo recently returned from the ITF Taekwon-Do World Championship held in Poreč, Croatia. Lorenzo represented the Italian National Team and competed against top athletes from around the globe. With over 1,400 competitors from 52 countries, this prestigious event is the highest level of competition in his sport and Lorenzo truly shone! He placed 5th in the world in both of his individual specialties: traditional patterns and sparring. In addition to his solo achievements, Lorenzo also contributed to the team events, helping Italy secure 4th place in special techniques and 5th place in team patterns.

This is a remarkable accomplishment, and we are incredibly proud of Lorenzo's dedication, skill, and sportsmanship.

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!



A LEVEL TRIP TO OSMINGTON BAY

Year 12 and Year 13 Geography students spent three days on the Jurassic Coast in Dorset, visiting well-known sites such as Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove, and West Bay. They also explored the coastal towns of Weymouth and Lyme Regis. The trip offered students the opportunity to practise fieldwork skills, including data collection and presenting findings in appropriate formats. These experiences will be especially



valuable when completing their Non-Exam Assessment.



TALK THE TALK WORKSHOP



Education is about so much more than passing exams. Here at Drayton Manor, we take great pride in providing opportunities for our students to grow into confident, happy members of society.

One of the ways we do this is through workshops such as the Talk the Talk workshop, a full day devoted to helping students build confidence, and develop key employability skills. Participants reflect on their experiences, explore future plans, and learn how to communicate their skills effectively. During the workshop, students learned to ask open-ended questions, took part in mock interviews as both interviewer and interviewee, and discovered how to use personal stories to make a strong impression. It was a valuable opportunity to strengthen communication, prepare for interviews, and develop skills for future success.

YEAR 7 CONCERT 22 OCTOBER



On Wednesday evening, the Music Department hosted the annual Year 7 Concert, marking a significant milestone in our newest students' journey at Drayton Manor High School. With 107 students performing, the evening was a celebration of musical growth, collaboration, and confidence.

The programme featured a diverse range of performances, including soloists, bands, classical pieces, and impressive choir arrangements. Each act reflected the dedication and enthusiasm of our Year 7 students, many of whom were performing publicly for the first time.



Before the concert began, families and guests were welcomed through a Hollywood-style corridor of fame, lined with stars celebrating each student. A purple carpet entry added a sense of occasion, and a photo gallery showcased highlights from Year 7's first eight weeks, capturing moments from lessons, enrichment, and school life.



Thank you to all staff in the Music Department for their work in preparing

students, and to families for their continued support. We look forward to seeing how Year 7 continue to develop as performers and members of our school community

YEAR 7 DODGE BALL INTERHOUSE TOURNAMENT



Our Year 7 Interhouse Dodgeball event was a fantastic success, filled with energy, teamwork, and plenty of friendly competition! The excitement was palpable as students from all houses took to the court, showing incredible spirit and enthusiasm throughout the games. It was wonderful to see everyone getting involved, cheering their house on, and demonstrating great sportsmanship.



A huge congratulations to Phoenix House, who emerged victorious after a series of thrilling matches! Well done to all participants for making the event such an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

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.

MATHS CHALLENGE UKMT GIRLS' MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD AND CHALLENGE SUCCESS

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of our students in this year's UKMT Girls' Mathematical Olympiad and Girls Mathematical Challenge. Minnie achieved a Merit in the prestigious Olympiad. This is a very demanding paper which requires two and a half hours of deep reasoning and problem solving. Minnie's merit is an exceptional accomplishment, and truly outstanding for a Year 11 student.

Sofia achieved a Merit in the Girls' Mathematical Challenge. This was another truly impressive result reflecting her strong mathematical ability.

Our other participants also performed very well, narrowly missing out on a Merit by only a few marks.

We are extremely proud of all the students for their hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm for mathematics.



Minnie who achieved Merit in the Girls Olympiad, an extraordinary achievement.

OUTSTANDING SUCCESS IN UKMT SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

We are delighted to share the excellent achievements of our students in this year's UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. Across Years 10 to 13, our students demonstrated impressive depth of reasoning, creativity in problem-solving, and resilience when tackling complex, unfamiliar questions.



This year, 3 students achieved Gold Awards, 30 achieved Silver, and 69 earned Bronze, with a further 68 students recognised with Participation Certificates. These results place many of our students among the top young mathematicians nationally. Impressively, this success was achieved even though a number of our strongest mathematicians were unable to take part due to a timetable clash with the ESAT assessment - suggesting that next year's results could be even stronger. We are incredibly proud of our students' analytical thinking, determination, and enthusiasm for mathematical challenge.

LONDON FALL INTERNATIONAL OPEN 2025 JIU-JITSU CHAMPIONSHIP'



Congratulations to Bella who competed in the biggest grapple competition in the UK. She came first in her weight division (46kg), weighing 2 kilos under. Bella is off to Abu Dhabi at the end of November for the world championships! What an experience, good luck Bella, and bring back that belt!

HALF TERM

We wish you all a restful half term and we'll see you again on Monday 3 November at the normal time.

