



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,
As we come to the close of a remarkable term, the school community is filled with pride reflecting on the incredible achievements and hard work of our students. Yet again, the students have showcased a breadth of talent, ambition, and dedication that is truly impressive.

From attending key careers events, where students have gained invaluable insights into the world of work, to embarking on enriching trips that have broadened their horizons, it has been a term filled with memorable experiences. Our students have been fortunate to hear from inspiring speakers who have challenged them to think differently and aim higher.

Our musicians have captivated audiences with their performances while our athletes have shown exceptional skill and determination and our mathematicians have impressed at the national level. These achievements not only reflect the talent within our school, but also the strong sense of teamwork and commitment that defines our community.

At every turn, our students continue to excel both in and outside the classroom. Their hard work, resilience, and enthusiasm for learning make us incredibly proud, and in this newsletter, we celebrate their achievements in all areas. As we look ahead to the new year, we are excited for the opportunities and challenges that await us, knowing that our students will continue to thrive and reach new heights.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your ongoing support and dedication to our students' success. Without your support, our work would not be possible.

Wishing you all a restful and joyful holiday, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in January for another term of growth and achievement.

Best wishes,
Mrs L Mills

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 (Engineering & Science Admissions Test) 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.

DRAYTON MANOR'S REMEMBRANCE DAY TRIBUTE



On the morning of November 11, Drayton Manor High School came together to mark Remembrance Day with a solemn two-minute silence at 11:00am. The silence was poignantly accompanied by a moving trumpet performance of The Last March by Year 10 student Charlie, leaving a lasting impression on all who listened. Afterward, a procession led by the Head Boy and Head Girl placed poppy wreaths at the memorial for fallen Draytonians, followed by a heartfelt reading of 'In Flanders Fields'.

Video can be found on the [school's website](#)

GERMAN EXCHANGE VISIT



In November, Drayton Manor High School once again welcomed our partner school Gymnasium an der Gartenstraße, from Mönchengladbach, Germany, as part of our annual German Exchange programme. Over 30 visiting students from Germany took part in a two-day project with DMHS German GCSE students to create their dream school. Students enjoyed discussing school values, comparing and contrasting the British and German system of education, and attending



lessons together. Feedback from visitors was very positive. They said they really enjoyed gaining insight into British school life and loved the school and house system. Our students also valued the opportunity to meet students from Germany, with many enjoying making new friends and practising their German. We look forward to returning the visit in 2026.

JACK PETCHEY "SPEAK OUT" CHALLENGE

Last week, our Year 10 students had the exciting opportunity to take part in the Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge" workshops, held on Tuesday 2nd and Thursday 4th December 2025. A number of students were selected to participate, and they represented the school exceptionally well. Throughout the day, students took part in a wide range of activities from energising icebreaker games to drafting, refining and ultimately performing their own speeches. Pupils demonstrated remarkable courage, with several overcoming their fears to speak confidently in front of their peers.

Both facilitators praised our students for being well-behaved, respectful, and highly engaged, noting how willing they were to take part in discussions and creative tasks. At the end of each session, a group of finalists was chosen for their outstanding delivery and ideas. We are proud to congratulate the finalists, Gareena, Jayson, Kalell, Yali, Ans, Maysa, and Oishikha. Their hard work and bravery truly shone through, and we look forward to seeing how they continue to develop their public-speaking skills.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



On Wednesday 10 December, our school hosted a spectacular Christmas Concert that showcased the talent and dedication of 140 students from across the whole school. The evening began with a festive reception, where parents were welcomed and serenaded by the joyful sounds of our steel pans groups. At 6pm, the main concert commenced, featuring 24 performances across a wide range of ensembles, from the string orchestra



and a cappella choir to several high-quality bands. The programme offered something for everyone, with music spanning different styles, and including original pieces written and arranged by our own students. The grand finale, led by the sixth form band, brought all our musicians together on stage for a rousing rendition of Last Christmas, leaving the audience delighted and full of festive cheer.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

On Tuesday 9 December, our school welcomed pupils from five local primary schools to share in the festive spirit. During the morning, they were treated to a special preview of our Christmas Concert, giving them a glimpse of the wide variety of music being prepared by our ensembles. The younger students enjoyed listening to the performances, joining in with the excitement, and even warming up with some hot chocolate to complete the seasonal atmosphere. The occasion provided a valuable opportunity to share our work with younger audiences and to encourage their interest in music.

YEAR 7 JACK AND THE BEANSTALK PANTOMIME

Year 7 students recently enjoyed a lively trip to the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith to see the Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime on Tuesday 16 December and Wednesday 17

December. The experience quickly became one of the standout moments of their school year.

From the moment they arrived, the theatre buzzed with energy and anticipation. Inside, the stage was transformed into a bright, magical world with colourful sets, sparkling lights, and imaginative props that immediately drew everyone in. The performance was filled with catchy songs, hilarious jokes, and plenty of classic panto moments that had the whole audience joining in.



The characters were larger than life. Jack was charming and brave, the villain was wonderfully silly, and the giant was both impressive and a little bit scary, towering above the stage with booming sound effects. There were modern twists and unexpected surprises that kept students fully engaged throughout the show. By the end, everyone was clapping, laughing, and excitedly discussing their favourite scenes. The visit to the Lyric Theatre, spread across two days to include both groups, not only offered fantastic entertainment but also created a shared experience that brought the year group closer together, making it a memorable outing they will be talking about for a long time.



VISIT TO THE COLISEUM

On Monday, 93 students from Years 7 to 12 enjoyed a trip to the London Coliseum to see the English National Opera's performance of HMS Pinafore. The visit was organised as a celebration of their involvement in the recent House Music Festival, and provided a valuable



opportunity to experience professional performance in a world-class setting. Students were engaged by the lively staging and atmosphere. The grandeur of the venue itself added to the occasion, making it a memorable experience for all who attended.



YEAR 13 CHRISTMAS LUNCH



On Monday 15 December, Year 13 gathered in the dining hall for their annual Christmas lunch which is arranged by the Head to thank Year 13 for their work at the school. As is Drayton Manor tradition, Year 12 students served the meals. This was well received by Year 13, who remembered taking on the same role last year.



The lunch featured a performance by the school flute ensemble, adding a musical highlight to the occasion. After the meal, Head Boy Mehdi and Head Girl Aisha delivered speeches thanking staff and students for their support, particularly with personal statements, and recognising the hard work of their classmates during this crucial stage of their education.

The event concluded with a visit from Santa, who handed out chocolates to students,

rounding off the afternoon in good spirits.

WELCOMING BACK THE CLASS OF 2025!

On Monday 15 December, we were delighted to welcome back our Year 13 Class of 2025 for their A Level Certificate Collection Event. It was a wonderful occasion filled with festive cheer, and mince pies, as students reunited with staff, and shared updates about their first term at university.



The event wasn't just about celebrating their achievements; it was also about looking ahead. Many signed up to become part of the Draytonian Alumni Network, remaining connected to the school and each other. We are proud to see them thriving and look forward to welcoming them back for future alumni events.

Congratulations once again to the Class of 2025. You will always be part of the Drayton Manor family!



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE – JESUS COLLEGE VISIT



As part of our ongoing support for students considering Oxbridge applications, a group of Year 13 students visited Jesus College at the University of Cambridge. The visit focused on understanding the admissions process and helping students prepare confidently for the October application deadline.

Students began the day with an introduction from the college's Access and Outreach Officer, learning how applications are assessed and what to expect from admissions tests and interviews. They also enjoyed a guided tour of the college with current undergraduates, gaining a real sense of student life at Cambridge.

Subject-specific workshops in the afternoon gave students tailored guidance for their applications, including mock interview practice and personal statement advice. Teachers joined separate sessions with admissions tutors to learn how best to support applicants.

The visit concluded with a Q&A session and informal discussions with students and tutors, helping to explain the application process and provide motivational encouragement. Overall, the trip was invaluable in boosting students' confidence, offering practical advice, and inspiring them about the possibilities of studying at Cambridge.

YEAR 12 VISIT TO ST JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD



A group of Year 12 students visited St John's College at the University of Oxford to develop their understanding of the collegiate system and what studying at Oxford involves. The day began with Oxford Explained, an introduction to the University, its structure, and the range of courses and opportunities available.

Students then enjoyed a guided tour of St John's College with current undergraduates, gaining a real insight into college life, followed by a Q&A session where they asked questions about academic expectations, student life, and studying at Oxford.

In the afternoon, students participated in a Personal Statement Workshop, receiving practical guidance on how to present their achievements and aspirations effectively. The session offered tips on structuring statements, highlighting strengths, and tailoring applications to stand out to admissions tutors.



SPORTS

The PE Faculty continues to provide a wide range of sporting activities for students of all ages and skill levels. Clubs are held weekly after school for students to develop their skills and to represent the school in competition. Clubs this term included netball, football, basketball, and rugby.

Netball



Our netball teams have been working hard this term, with training sessions taking place every Thursday under the guidance of Ms Kear and Coach Lisa. The Senior Girls' team competed in the Ealing Borough tournament on Thursday 20th November. It was a challenging group stage, made even tougher by an injury that left the team with only six players on the court. Despite this setback, they showed great resilience and determination.

Looking ahead, the Year 10 team will compete in the Ealing Borough tournament on Thursday 11th December. Meanwhile, our Year 7 and Year 9 teams have already played their first fixtures in the Ealing Borough League against Greenford and Dormers Wells. Both teams remain undefeated so far this season, which is a fantastic achievement.

There are more fixtures scheduled after the Winter Break, and we're excited to see how our teams continue to perform. In addition, inter-house competitions for Year 10 and Year 7 have given students even more opportunities to showcase their skills and team spirit.

Basketball

Year 7 Boys training has been well attended, and the commitment of the players has seen improvements in terms of skill level and game understanding. The Junior and Senior Boys clubs have high numbers each week since the season started in November. The Seniors are currently undefeated in the league. The Juniors will soon play their first league match against Elthorne Park.

Girls Basketball club continues to be popular, led by Coach Tasharn and Coach Concielle every Wednesday evening. Work begins to prepare a KS3 girls team to enter the Ealing Borough basketball tournament scheduled for next term.



Football



Attendance at Girls Football Club has grown since last season, with a large turnout of Year 7 players. Training has taken place every Wednesday evening on the astro thanks to Mrs Williams and Coach Hoda.

On Tuesday 25th November, two teams entered and competed in the Under 13 Girls 7-a-side Ealing Borough tournament, hosted by William Perkin High School. The competition was strong, and our players put up a determined performance, but didn't make it out of the pool stage. We also hosted Ark Soane Academy on Wednesday 3rd December for two friendly matches between our Year 7 teams. Our youngest players were able to put together a string of attacking plays and were rewarded with two solid victories - 3-2 and 4-2. The Under 14 team looks forward to playing their first Ealing League match against Cardinal Wiseman in early January.

Before the October half term break, we had over 150 students at Year 7 to 11 Boys Football Club at the games field – continuing the high attendance numbers of last season. All teams had a busy start this half term fulfilling fixtures in the following:

- Year 7 Ealing League
- Year 8 Ealing Cup - through to the second round
- Year 8 Ealing League
- Year 9 Ealing Cup - through to the second round
- Year 10 Ealing Cup
- Year 10 Ealing League
- Under 18 1st XI Ealing League
- Under 18 2nd XI Ealing League
- MSFA Under 16 Moncaster Cup
- MSFA Under 18 1st XI Tye Cup

After the success of the matches our Under 18 teams played last season against several prestigious independent schools, Mr Grudgings, Mr Black and Mr Bowman sought more opportunities for competition around West London and beyond. The teams have completed fixtures against St. Benedict's School, Bradfield College, and Harrodian.

We look forward to matches against Highgate, St Columba's College, Charterhouse and Merchant Taylors' in the Spring Term.

Rugby

Year 7 Boys Rugby club ran on Wednesday evenings, with Mr Barnes, at the games field before the October half term break. The club will return after the February half term break.

Year 7 Swimming

Every Wednesday and Friday morning, Mr Bowman, Mr Barnes, and Ms Kear have been leading our Year 7 students to Dormers Wells Leisure Centre for swimming. Despite the 8.10am start, attendance has been fantastic, with students eager to dive in and develop their swimming techniques, confidence in the water, and even lifesaving skills.

Students in two Year 7 classes (7E and 7I) have completed their swimming programme this Autumn term. Steady progress was made by all to develop this essential life skill. These sessions will continue throughout the Spring and Summer terms for the remaining Year 7 tutor groups, ensuring that all students can improve their abilities and enjoy the many benefits of swimming. It is great to see our young swimmers making such a splash!



Drayton Manor High School U18 Football Report

Drayton Manor High School's U18 football teams enjoyed a positive December, producing resilient performances and late drama across both league and cup fixtures.

3rd December – Ealing League (U18 1st XI)

DMHS U18 1st XI secured an excellent away victory against Elthorne High School in a tightly contested Ealing League fixture. In a game decided by fine margins, Drayton Manor showed composure and determination to claim a 2–1 win. The decisive moment came in the final two minutes, when DMHS scored the winning goal to seal all three points and underline their ability to perform under pressure.

10th December – League Fixtures & Paine/Patel Shield vs Greenford HS

On 10th December, Drayton Manor hosted Greenford High School's U18 1st and 2nd XI in the Ealing League. The games also served as the annual Paine/Patel Shield.

The 2nd XI match was an entertaining and hard-fought encounter. Greenford took the lead on two separate occasions, but Drayton Manor responded impressively each time, showing character and attacking intent to earn a thrilling 4–4 draw.

In the 1st XI fixture, DMHS faced early frustration as Greenford scored despite Drayton Manor enjoying the majority of possession and chances. Remaining calm and disciplined, DMHS continued to trust their approach and were rewarded with a second-half equaliser. For the second consecutive week, Drayton Manor held their nerve to score a dramatic last-minute winner. The performance was widely praised, with players and staff proud of the team's mentality, patience, and resilience.

Overall Outcome



As a result, Drayton Manor High School have successfully retained the Paine/Patel Shield

for another season while the U18 1st XI are also enjoying a perfect start to their league campaign, going top of the table with two wins from two matches.

CAREERS AND FUTURE STUDY EVENTS: AUTUMN TERM

Here at Drayton Manor, we know that preparing our students for life after they leave our school is a vital part of our work. We take great pride in ensuring that students are well informed and supported to make the decisions that are best for them for their future. We are proud to arrange a wealth of valuable opportunities for students to explore the range of opportunities that is available to them.

DRAYTON MANOR ANNUAL AWARDS EVENING



On Wednesday 12 November, Drayton Manor High School proudly hosted its annual Awards Evening. This is a very special event in the school calendar, in which we celebrate the achievements of our students across academics, leadership, and community service.



The event was marked by an inspiring address from special guest Asmaa Sakr, a distinguished alumna and former Head Girl. Asmaa shared her journey since leaving the school and encouraged students to embrace

opportunities with confidence and resilience. A total of 183 awards were presented to more than 160 students, recognising excellence in subjects, outstanding contributions to school life, and remarkable personal accomplishments. The evening highlighted the breadth of talent within the school community and the dedication of students, and staff. Staff and Governors praised the award recipients for their hard work and commitment, while families and peers applauded their success. The ceremony reflected Drayton Manor's ethos of nurturing ambition and celebrating achievement, leaving attendees inspired for the year ahead.



TENDER WORKSHOP YEAR 9 - HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WORKSHOPS

Our students recently took part in a fun and engaging two-day workshop all about building healthy, respectful relationships. The project included games, group activities, discussions, drama and short films, helping students learn in an interactive and supportive way.

FAMILY SERVICES FAIR: A WARM COMMUNITY WELCOME

On Wednesday 3 December, Drayton Manor High School hosted its first annual Family Services Fair, bringing together students, families, and staff to explore the support available within the school and local community.





Held in the Sixth Form Centre, the Fair featured stalls from local organisations offering advice and guidance on family services, a pre-loved uniform sale organised by the PTA, student-led activities, opportunities for families to meet school staff, and a free raffle.



Visitors were also invited to attend well-being talks delivered by QPR football club and the Here For You Counselling Service. These sessions focused on recognising when support is needed, maintaining healthy routines, and managing stress. The talks were well attended and positively received.



The event created a welcoming space for families to connect, ask questions, and discover support they may not have been aware of. It reflected our commitment to building a strong, supportive school community where students and families feel valued and connected.



Thank you to the community organisations, staff, PTA, students, and families who made

the event such a success. We look forward to building on this in the future.

JAMES MURRAY MP CAREERS ASSEMBLY



This term, we were delighted to welcome James Murray, MP for Ealing North, back to our school for an engaging and insightful talk about life in public service as a part of our careers speaker programme. Mr. Murray spoke openly about his journey from growing up in Ealing to becoming an MP, highlighting how his early experiences continue to guide his decisions and keep him grounded.



Students were given an insight into the life of an MP and how political decisions affect local communities. They heard about the realities of working in politics and one student shared a reflection on his message that "positive change can be made with a community, and a young voice."



JAMES SILLS MUSIC VISIT

James Sills is a British musician, singing leader, author, and speaker who focuses on bringing people together through the power of group singing. He is the founder of The Sofa Singers, a global online singing community that began during the COVID-19 pandemic to reduce

isolation and build connection, for which he received a UK Points of Light Award. James is also the author of *Do Sing: Reclaim Your Voice*. Find *Your Singing Tribe*, a book that encourages people to rediscover their voices and the wellbeing benefits of singing.



On Monday 24 November, we were delighted to welcome vocal leader James Sills to school for an inspiring day of music-making. In the morning, he worked with singers from Year 8 through to sixth form, including our Year 8 vocal scholars, guiding them through singing techniques, harmonies, and arranging. The afternoon saw all of Year 7 join together in a lively session where they sang *Lean on Me* and *Count on Me* with great enthusiasm. James returned the following week to rehearse with our choirs in preparation for the Christmas concert, making remarkable progress. The students were energised by his sessions and are excited to continue building on this collaboration in the future.



YEAR 12 TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE WORKSHOP

A group of Year 12 students participated in a full-day workshop with Talk About The Future, an organisation that supports young people in preparing for life after school or college. The workshop focused on developing the skills and confidence needed to approach interviews, further study, and employment with resilience and a positive mindset.

ERNST & YOUNG CAREER ASSEMBLY – INSPIRING FUTURE LEADERS

On 4th November, Drayton Manor High School had the privilege of hosting Sue Chin, the Senior Manager and Energy Advisor Director, and Alice Black, who is the Managing Transformation & Strategic Change Director, both from Ernst & Young.



During the Y12 and Y13 assemblies, Sue and Alice shared their career journeys, the challenges they faced, and the lessons learned along the way. Their honest reflections on mistakes and successes offered students invaluable insights into the realities of working in a global professional services firm. A huge thank you to Sue Chin and Alice Black for inspiring our students and to Ernst Young for supporting this initiative. We look forward to more collaborations that help prepare our students for successful futures.

UNDERSTANDING ECONOMICS IN ACTION – FRONTIER ECONOMICS ASSEMBLY

On 25th November, Year 12 students at Drayton Manor High School welcomed Dave Foster from Frontier Economics who delivered an inspiring assembly about the world of economics and its real-life applications. Dave introduced students to the work of Frontier Economics, one of Europe's leading economic consultancy firms, and explained how economics influences decision-making in business, government, and everyday life. Students learned that economic consultancy involves using data and analysis to solve complex problems for clients. This work requires a wide range of skills, including critical thinking, problems solving and effective communication.

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER OUTREACH TEAM ASSEMBLY

On 11th November, Year 12 students at Drayton Manor High School welcomed a representative from the University of Exeter Outreach Team for an informative assembly focused on competitive universities and choosing the right course.

The session provided students with practical advice on navigating the university application process. They were taught how to understand competitive universities, including the Russell Group, what makes them stand out and how to prepare for entry.

EXPLORING MEDICINE – ST GEORGE'S UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY

Year 12 students attended an Exploring Medicine assembly led by a representative from St George's University of London. The session provided a clear and realistic overview of medicine as a career, including the structure of medical courses, student life at a specialist health sciences university, and the

expectations of studying medicine. Students learned about pathways into medicine, entry requirements, and key elements of the application process, including the UCAT and Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs). The importance of researching courses, modules, and areas of specialism was emphasised, alongside the skills and qualities needed for a career in medicine, such as resilience, empathy, and academic commitment.

PTA QUIZ AND CURRY NIGHT



On Friday 5 December, Drayton Manor High School's PTA hosted a lively Quiz and Curry evening, bringing parents and carers together for a night of fun, food, and fundraising. The event was successfully hosted by Mr Weaver, one of our dedicated Year 7 parents, who guided teams through a number of challenging rounds, testing both general knowledge and familiarity with the local community and school.

Nearly 40 parents and carers attended, enjoying a delicious curry supper alongside the quiz. The atmosphere was warm and light-hearted, with plenty of friendly competition as teams worked hard to outscore one another while sharing laughter and camaraderie. The evening was a great success, raising almost £300 that will go towards supporting school projects and enriching student experiences. The PTA extends heartfelt thanks to all who made this possible and attended, making the night both memorable and enjoyable for all.

More events are planned for the Spring Term so watch this space for information that will be shared in the New Year.



KEY DATES FOR THE TERM AHEAD

DATE	EVENT
6 Jan	Start of Term
20 Jan	GCSE Maths in Action Trip
21 Jan	Mat Quinn Visit (Main Hall)
22 Jan	Year 11 Parents Evening (4.30-7.00pm)
28 Jan	Classical Soloists Night (Hall 6.00-7.30pm)
2 Feb	Trip to Pompeii
4 Feb	DTP/Meningitis Vaccine (a.m.)
16-20 Feb	Half Term

PARENT GOVERNOR UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that the school has received applications for the role of parent governor. There will be an election in January and we will share details at the start of next term.



Best wishes to all
our families for the
festive season and the
Christmas break.