

**YEAR 12 AND YEAR 7 SCIENCE SHOW**

Dr Szydlo's recent science show delivered an unforgettable blend of drama, humour, and high-energy chemistry that captivated students from start to finish. With each demonstration, he brought complex scientific ideas to life through spectacular experiments and clear, engaging explanations that revealed the excitement behind everyday chemical reactions. One student reflected on the experience, sharing:

"Dr Szydlo's science show was an excellent experience that enhanced my love for chemistry. His experiment highlighted the wonder and beauty that often go unnoticed every day. It strengthened my resolve to continue science in further education." Their words perfectly capture the excitement and curiosity that spread through the students.

**JACK PETCHEY**

On 20 January, six Year 10 students who participated in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge delivered their speeches to the entire year group, competing for a place in the finals.

The Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, run by the Jack Petchey Foundation, is the largest youth public speaking competition in the UK. It aims to inspire confidence, develop communication skills, and empower

young people to use their voices to make a difference.

Our students rose to that challenge brilliantly. The speeches were passionate and thought-provoking, covering topics such as dreams, identity, perfectionism, the power of family, and resilience. Each speaker demonstrated impressive courage and maturity as they shared messages that resonated with their peers.

We are incredibly proud of all the students who took part and confidently presented speeches on topics that were meaningful and personal to them.

**EALING MUSIC SERVICE JAZZ WORKSHOP**

On Wednesday 4 February we welcomed renowned jazz composer and bandleader Sam Eastmond, to run a jazz workshop with KS3 musicians as part of an Ealing Music Service project. Across the morning students

**PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION UPDATE**

Thank you to all parents and carers for participating in The Parent Governor election. The votes are now being counted, and we look forward to updating everybody on the outcome after half term when this is complete.

were introduced to new repertoire, learnt the different approaches of performing in a Big Band and even had a go at improvising! Following the workshop, students were then invited to participate in a performance at Questors theatre, forming a massive Jazz Orchestra along with over 100 students from across the borough!

**TRIP TO POMPEII**

From 2 February to 5 February the Classics department led a hugely successful trip to the Bay of Naples. Latin GCSE students from Years 10 and 11 experienced a unique blend of modern and ancient life, bringing their studies of the ancient world to life in front of their eyes.



Students visited the ancient towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum where they were able to walk the streets just as the Romans did before the eruption of Vesuvius in 79CE, and even witnessed current excavations continuing in the site uncovering new buildings and remains. A particular highlight was the arrival at the house of Lucius Caecilius Icundus (Caecilius), whom the students have studied since Year 7! From ovens in Oplontis to the theatre at Pompeii the ancient sites offered a unique opportunity to experience the real lives of everyday Romans firsthand.



As the sun breached through the clouds students ascended to the summit of Mount Vesuvius, which looms over the bay of Naples and is visible from all around. To stand on the top of the volcano which obliterated, though perfectly preserved, the towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum was an awe-inspiring moment. Students also got a taste of modern Italian life, which continues alongside these two-thousand year-old sites. A visit to a long-established gelateria in Naples gave students the opportunity to hear from a true expert about the complex and delicious process of making gelato. A team effort of ingredient measuring, pouring into machines, and serving to the group resulted in some excellently fresh gelato for all. The tastes did not stop there, as students were treated to an evening meal in a pizzeria in the heart of Sorrento. As the bay of Naples is widely considered to be 'the birthplace of pizza' this did not disappoint.

Throughout our time in Italy students showed a curiosity in the context of each site, and there was palpable excitement

at each new site. Our guide in Pompeii described the students as 'great listeners and always respectful', and they asked insightful questions at every turn. They were a credit to the school and returned to Drayton Manor with a deeper understanding and appreciation for the ancient world.



#### HOUSE TIMETABLES CHALLENGE

On Friday 6 February, the school hosted the much-anticipated House Times Table Challenge: Beat the Sixth Former! The Main Hall was transformed into a competitive arena as students from Years 7, 8 and 9 took on the exciting task of answering as many times-table questions as possible in three minutes, all while trying to outscore two Sixth Formers.

The atmosphere was electric throughout lunchtime. Students showed tremendous determination, confidence and teamwork as they pushed themselves to reflect our school value of Ambition; especially when challenging Sixth Formers currently studying A-Level Maths! One student stepped up with remarkable confidence and set the tone for an exciting event.

A huge well done to all the students below who took part in the challenge:

Firuze 7F	Nishi 7K
Asha 7I	Nesreen 7J
Faryal 7L	Samiya 7L
Fatma 7E	Ayoub 7K
Ali 7K	Ayat 7K
Hadi 7L	Abrar 7J
Michelle 7L	Sharmarke 8J
Lara 8K	Cecilia 8J
Eliot 9G	Vasilis 9H
Ayoub 9F	Omar 9H
Zaheer 9F	Dylan 9G

A special congratulations goes to Mark (9E), who completed an astonishing 173 questions correctly- earning the title of House Times Table Champion and beating the Sixth Former!

We also extend our thanks to the Sixth Form students who helped make the event such a success. Thank you to Sahil (13.6) for his

support on the day, and to Emily (13.4) and Eliza (13.5) for bravely stepping up! Finally, a big thank you to our Heads of Houses for organising this fantastic House event.

#### DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKE ON THE CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD FOR THE FIRST TIME

Twelve talented students from Years 12 and 13 at Drayton Manor High School have proudly taken part in the Chemistry Olympiad, a prestigious international competition organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry. This marks the first time the school has entered the challenge, making the occasion an exciting milestone for both students and staff.

The Olympiad is renowned for stretching participants beyond the A-level curriculum, requiring advanced problem-solving skills, creativity, and deep scientific understanding. Our students embraced the challenge with enthusiasm, dedicating time and effort to prepare for the demanding paper.

We are now eagerly awaiting the results to find out whether any of our entrants have qualified for the next round of the competition. Regardless of the outcome, the school is immensely proud of their commitment, curiosity, and willingness to take on a global scientific challenge.

Congratulations to Sahil (13.6), Andreas (13.5), Safa (13.6), Elizabeth (12.5), Max (12.4), Eliza (13.5), Khadeeja (12.1), Amrita (12.5), Patryk (12.5), Muhanad (12.4), Syeda (12.1), Ali (12.2).

Their participation reflects Drayton Manor's ongoing dedication to fostering academic excellence and encouraging students to push the boundaries of their learning.

#### CLASSICAL SOLOIST NIGHT



On Wednesday 28 January, Drayton Manor High School's Classical Soloist Night brought together an evening of extraordinary musical talent. Organised by the school's Music Department, the event provided a platform for solo performers of all skill levels to



showcase their dedication and artistry before an engaged and appreciative audience. The night was a true testament to the school's vibrant musical community, with students across year groups demonstrating passion, technical mastery, and expressive depth.



A memorable highlight of the night came with the attendance of Julian Gallant, a well-known advocate for the arts in the London Borough of Ealing. An accomplished pianist, composer, and music director, Mr Gallant presided over the competition as a distinguished adjudicator. His extensive career in performance, composition, and leadership in classical music made him an ideal judge for this prestigious event.



The competition featured several categories, ensuring musicians at various levels had an opportunity to shine. The repertoire ranged from delicate Baroque compositions to expressive Romantic pieces, with each student bringing their unique interpretation to the music. The carefully structured format allowed both seasoned and emerging musicians to be recognized for their efforts. While these students took home awards, every performer contributed to a night of exceptional musical achievement. Beyond the competition, the event provided a valuable opportunity for young musicians to gain live performance experience and grow in confidence.



The event highlighted the talent, dedication,

and passion of its students, leaving both performers and audience members inspired. With such a strong debut, anticipation is already building for the next showcase of musical excellence.

#### CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2026: 'THIS IS MY PLACE'



Children's Mental Health Week 2026 was celebrated with energy, creativity and a powerful sense of community at Drayton Manor. This year's national theme, 'This Is My Place', focused on helping young people recognise the importance of belonging, whether that is within school, at home, or in the wider community.

Our Student Wellbeing Ambassadors played a central role in shaping the week. Meeting regularly in the lead-up to the event, they brainstormed activities that were not only meaningful but also engaging and fun for their peers. Their ideas, combined with the generosity of staff volunteers, resulted in one of our most successful Mental Health Weeks yet.

#### A Week of Enriching Activities

Throughout the week, students had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities aimed at promoting wellbeing, connection and creativity. Staff volunteers kindly offered their time and expertise to run sessions including:

- Yoga
- A dodgeball tournament
- Student karaoke
- Daily morning mindfulness led by Inclusion staff



Each lunchtime, the main hall was transformed into a creative wellbeing hub, with drop-in activities such as:

- A scavenger hunt
- Mindful colouring
- Design-your-own keyrings
- Creating Thank You cards

These sessions proved extremely popular, with students sharing overwhelmingly positive feedback about the chance to unwind, be creative and spend time with friends.



#### Special Guests and Community Partnerships

On Tuesday, we were delighted to welcome Eleanor from NHS Mental Health Support Team and Evie from The Proper Project. Both visitors delivered interactive wellbeing activities and spoke about the mental health support available to young people in the local community. Their involvement helped students better understand how to seek help and access services beyond school.

#### Whole-Week Initiatives

Three initiatives ran across the entire week, giving students ongoing opportunities to reflect on kindness, community and the theme of belonging:

#### An art competition titled 'This Is My Place'

Kindness Bingo, encouraging daily acts of kindness

'Proud of You' tickets, which staff handed out to recognise moments of kindness, determination and positive contributions

These activities helped reinforce everyday wellbeing habits and encouraged students to notice the strengths in themselves and others.

#### Engaging Families

Supporting families continued to be a vital part of our approach. Two parent events were held during the week:

Year 7-8 Parents Afternoon Tea (Tuesday):

Focused on supporting children's mental health in a digital world.

Whole-School Parent Workshop, this session



provided strategies for early identification of mental health challenges and practical ways parents can support their child at home. Mrs Guitane also shared how we foster belonging and community at Drayton Manor—key foundations for positive mental health.



### Student Leadership Beyond the School Gates



A highlight of the week was when six of our Wellbeing Ambassadors visited North Ealing Primary School to lead a presentation on wellbeing, bullying, and simple strategies for maintaining good mental health. Their confident delivery and thoughtful guidance were warmly received by pupils and staff, strengthening our partnership with the local primary community and giving our students a valuable leadership experience.

Children's Mental Health Week 2026 truly embodied our commitment to fostering a supportive, inclusive and connected school environment. A huge thank-you goes to our Wellbeing Ambassadors, all participating staff, visiting professionals and our parent community for helping make the week such a success.

### YEAR 10 BRILLIANT CLUB SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

Selected students from Year 10 are taking part in The Scholars Programme, which gives

them the chance to experience university style learning through small group tutorials led by a PhD tutor. Students were chosen for their potential to progress to highly selective universities in the future.



### EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS IN INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

Students across Years 9 to 11 have achieved outstanding results showing exceptional mathematical ability in this year's UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Intermediate Maths Challenge.

14 students achieved Gold Awards, placing them among the top performers nationally. 45 students secured Silver Awards, 48 students earned Bronze Awards, and a further 73 students were recognised with Participation Certificates, reflecting both excellence and broad engagement across the school.

An outstanding 107 certificates out of 180 students who took part.

These results highlight the depth of mathematical talent at Drayton Manor. The Mathematics Department is immensely proud of all students who participated and looks forward to building on this success in future competitions.

We will get the certificates printed and celebrate our students in assembly and also send a notice to bulletins in due course.

### YEAR 8 MATHS SCHOLARS

Year 8 Maths Scholars have been exploring the creative side of mathematics by producing digital mathematical art and music using Polypad. Alongside this, they have been developing their problem-solving and reasoning skills through linear programming, with a particular focus on optimisation problems and real-world decision making. In the next term we will be working on Cryptography & Ciphers and Game Theory.

### ETHIC OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS EVENT

This term we celebrated our Ethic of Excellence Awards, recognising students from Years 7–11 for their commitment to hard work, resilience and consistently high standards across school life.



Students were nominated by staff for demonstrating outstanding effort, ambition, initiative and subject performance in lessons and around the school community.



The event highlighted the positive attitudes and strong work ethic shown by so many of our students — from excellent academic achievement and classroom engagement to improved focus, determination and personal growth. It was fantastic to celebrate these successes and acknowledge students who consistently model our school values and set a positive example for others.



We are incredibly proud of all those recognised and look forward to continuing to celebrate their achievements throughout the year.



## QPR COMMUNITY

Our Year 8, 9 and 10 students have been working closely with the QPR Community Trust through the Premier League Inspires programme, taking part in weekly sessions designed to build confidence, teamwork, leadership and personal development. The programme has given students the opportunity to step outside of their normal classroom environment and develop key life skills through sport, mentoring and project-based learning. Across the weeks, students have shown real growth — not only in their engagement, but in how they communicate, collaborate and support one another.

As part of the project, students have:

- worked in teams to plan and develop ideas
- built presentation and communication skills
- explored problem-solving and leadership
- linked their learning to real-world challenges
- grown in confidence when speaking and sharing opinions

The sessions have encouraged students to take ownership of their ideas and challenge themselves, with many stepping into leadership roles and supporting their peers along the way.

We are incredibly proud that our students will now represent the school at MATRADE Loftus Road Stadium, where selected schools will come together to compete in a Dragons' Den-style challenge.

Students will present their projects and ideas to judges, demonstrating everything they have learned throughout the programme.

The winning group will then go on to represent QPR at the Premier League Inspires Challenge Celebration Event, held at Everton Football Stadium, it's an incredible opportunity and a fantastic achievement for any young person involved.

What has stood out most is how students have:

- supported one another
- developed resilience
- improved behaviour and focus
- built positive relationships with staff and peers
- taken real pride in representing the school

## ALUMNUS VISIT – MIA LEPPER

Alumni Mia Lepper returned to Drayton Manor to speak with Drama and Music students about pathways into the creative arts. Since leaving the school, Mia has

progressed to The BRIT School, completed a Foundation course at one of the UK's leading drama schools, and is now in the first year of her degree programme.



Mia delivered an engaging presentation on applying to drama schools and creative university courses, followed by a Q&A for aspiring performers. She offered practical guidance on audition preparation, choosing courses and developing resilience in a competitive field. Her visit provided students with valuable insight and inspiration as they consider future study and careers in the arts.

## ALUMNUS VISIT – FAIZ GUL



We were delighted to welcome back former student Faiz Gul, who is currently studying Law at the University of Warwick. Faiz returned to speak with students about his journey into higher education and the world of competitive legal opportunities. Faiz has recently been awarded a prestigious scholarship from A&O Shearman, a global law firm that partners with Warwick to offer

high-value, funded opportunities for aspiring law students, including support through Law School LLM scholarships. He spoke candidly about the hard work and resilience required to reach this stage, sharing how he overcame disappointing mock exam results by refocusing, staying motivated, and seeking support.



A key theme of Faiz's message was the importance of networking and "saying yes" to opportunities, whether through workshops, outreach programmes, or enrichment activities, as these experiences can make a real difference when crafting a strong personal statement and preparing for university applications.

Students left the session inspired by Faiz's honesty, determination, and practical advice, and we are proud to see him thriving in his academic and professional journey.

## ALUMNUS VISIT – MAKSYM BELKO

Maksym returned to run a small group session. He spoke about joining Drayton Manor as a newcomer and the challenges he overcame with language, confidence and motivation. His story gave students reassurance and inspiration, showing what can be achieved with support and perseverance. The discussion was engaging and helped strengthen the sense of belonging and ambition among the students who attended.



**ALUMNUS VISIT - PEDRO**

Pedro delivered an assembly to Year 9 students about his journey from Drayton Manor to studying Law with Business at the University of Exeter. He spoke about the importance of good habits, taking responsibility and making positive choices early on. After the assembly, he met with Year 10 Gifted and Talented students to discuss studying Law and Business. He highlighted how school activities such as debating helped him succeed at university. Students asked thoughtful questions about subject choices, university life and pathways into legal careers.

**SOVEREIGN MINDS SPEAR ORATORY COMPETITION – RUN BY OUR DRAYTON ALUMNI!**

On Saturday 31 January, the school hosted the Sovereign Minds SPEAR Oratory Competition organised by three of our Alumni, Esher, Simrit and Harnoor Chagger, their family and a large number of volunteers. This continued a long standing relationship with the school as Esher, Simrit and Harnoor's father attended the school and their Grandfather gave over 30 years of service as part of the Science Faculty.

The Sovereign Minds SPEAR Oratory Prize is a prestigious speech making competition that gives 16 - 18 years olds which provides a platform and a voice to allow young people to set their sights on global issues whilst showcasing their own passion, intelligence and ability to find answers to the difficult challenges that young people face today. Students are invited to deliver a speech on one of the ten SPEAR target subjects. By choosing a topic they care deeply about, every entrant can deepen their understanding of global issues and develop a sense of responsibility as global citizens.

The topics students spoke on were, ending poverty, improving health, education for all, eliminating hunger, the future of work, protecting our planet, peace and justice, equality everywhere, global cooperation and

responsible consumption.

The competition was launched by Sovereign Minds, a UK-based educational initiative that works with young people to nurture their skills, mindfulness, curiosity, critical thinking and independence helping participants to succeed in both their careers and also their roles as responsible global citizens. Sovereign Minds are supported by over 120 volunteers ranging from teachers, lawyers, entrepreneurs, doctors, finance professionals and more with some volunteers coming from as far as Scotland to help run things at the school on the day. Everyone volunteering for Sovereign Minds is passionate about education and oracy and keen to ensure all students across the UK have access to opportunities. More than 2,200 students signed up for the competition across London, with approximately 800 entrants from West London and 83 students from Drayton Manor High School taking part. There are four events in total, the Qualifiers, Quarter-Final, Semi-Final and Final. The Qualifiers took place on 31 Jan across four London sites, with Drayton Manor being chosen to host the West London Qualifiers. The Quarter-Final will be take place 14 Feb at The Naval and Military Club in London, with the Semi-Final on 28 Feb at the House of Commons and the Final on 14 March at Church House, Westminster, with the overall winner receiving a £10,000 cash prize. Four students from Drayton Manor have progressed onto the Quarter Finals, **Alex (12.1), Adam (12.1), Maya (12.1), Elsa (12.3)**. The SPEAR Oratory Prize Competition was recently featured on the BBC where alumni Esher Chagger spoke live on-air about how her generation can be underestimated.

**COFFEE MORNING**

Our second Community Coffee Morning was a wonderful success. The session focused on supporting families to better understand our progress reports and School Values and Ethos, and it sparked lots of thoughtful and meaningful discussion.

We were delighted to receive extremely positive feedback, with 100% of attending parents expressing that they would like more events like this in the future. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us. We look forward to welcoming you again very soon!

**PE****BASKETBALL**

Coach Tasharn has been running the KS3 Lunchtime Basketball Club every day during Period 4. This is a very popular club where students can practice their skills in friendly competition.

Girls' Basketball Club has been popular and well attended this year. The club is run by Coach Tasharn and Coach Concielle on Wednesdays after school. We are hoping to enter a team into the KS3 Girls Basketball Tournament in the first week back after February half term.

The Junior team have shown fantastic determination throughout their opening fixtures, securing two well-deserved victories alongside a single narrow defeat. Their teamwork, competitive spirit and willingness to learn have been clear in every performance. Sitting in a strong position in the league table, the Juniors are well on their way to qualifying for the Ealing League semi-finals after half-term.



The Senior team has been nothing short of outstanding so far, achieving a perfect record of three wins from three, against Elthorne Park, Ada Lovelace and Ark Soane. With disciplined defending, creative play around the



key and a sharp attacking threat, they have set the standard for the competition. They look forward to the Ealing League semi-finals. Earlier this academic year, our 3x3 basketball team made school history by winning the inaugural Jr. NBA London 3x3 Tournament 2024/25, with the final held in the iconic setting of Trafalgar Square. Their outstanding victory not only crowned them London champions but also led to two unforgettable experiences that celebrated their achievement on the biggest stages basketball in the UK has to offer. As champions, the boys were invited to the exclusive Jr. NBA 3v3 Exhibition Game inside NBA House at Magazine London, the official fan zone for the NBA London Game. On January 16th, the team arrived in their Jr. NBA kit, ready to represent the school among NBA fans, partners, and VIPs. NBA House was an immersive basketball environment, packed with interactive stations, NBA partner activations, and a dedicated court used for showcase games. Against Beths Grammar School, the runners-up from the Jr. NBA 3x3 competition, our players delivered a confident and exciting 3v3 performance. Their teamwork, creativity, and composure showed exactly why they were crowned champions earlier in the season. Beyond the exhibition game, the boys enjoyed the full NBA experience — exploring fan activities, taking part in challenges, and soaking in the electric atmosphere. It was an unforgettable celebration of their hard work and success. Winning the Jr. NBA 3x3 Tournament also earned the team tickets to the NBA London Game 2026, hosted at the world-famous O2 Arena on Sunday 18 January 2026. This year's matchup brought two exciting NBA franchises to London: the Memphis Grizzlies and the Orlando Magic.



The boys had the incredible opportunity to watch global basketball stars compete live, including Two-time NBA all-star Ja Morant. The atmosphere inside The O2 was electric, with thousands of fans witnessing London's 19th NBA game and the league's 10th regular-season matchup in the UK. For our

students, experiencing the speed, physicality, and intensity of an NBA game up close was both inspiring and unforgettable. Alongside the game itself, the event was supported by a wide range of NBA initiatives, from youth clinics and community outreach to interactive fan engagements, creating a full weekend of basketball celebration that the boys were fortunate to be part of.

### NETBALL

Training has resumed for students in Year 7 to 10 during lunch periods and after school with Ms Kear, and Coach Lisa from Evolution Netball. Students can develop their netball skills and have fun, all while demonstrating their ambition to represent the school in League matches and Borough tournaments. The Year 9 netball team, accompanied by Ms. Kear, took part in the Ealing Borough Tournament on Monday 12 January at Ellen Wilkinson School. They faced a challenging group stage, competing against teams from Twyford and William Perkin, Featherstone, and the host school, Ellen Wilkinson. Despite the tough competition, the team performed confidently, securing three wins and one draw. In early February, the Year 9s faced Greenford High School in an impressive display of skill and determination. With both an A team and a B team competing, the students delivered two strong performances. The A team dominated their match with an exceptional 33-1 victory, showcasing confident play and excellent teamwork. The B team followed with a well-earned 5-1 win, an especially noteworthy achievement considering that, for most of the players, it was their first ever netball match.

The Interhouse Netball Tournament for Year 7 will take place after school on Thursday 26th February. Any students who would like to participate and compete should visit the PE office to sign up.



### FOOTBALL

The Under 14 Girls Football team are undefeated so far in the Ealing Borough league competition. Their most recent tie was against Greenford High School. A stroke of sunny weather ensured conditions were ideal for the match. Despite having two starters absent, the team kicked off at a high tempo which served them well to lead 4-1 at the break. Although the opposition were able to score early in the second half, Drayton Manor refocused and strung together a couple of sharp passing plays which sealed a 6-2 victory. Congratulations to [Amerah](#) who was named player of the match. The team looks forward to their upcoming matches against Elthorne Park in the Ealing Cup quarter-final, and Dormers' Wells in the Borough League. The Year 9 and 10 Girls' Futsal Tournament took place on Friday 23 February at Ada Lovelace High School. Teams from Drayton Manor, Ada Lovelace, Cardinal Wiseman, and Twyford competed in a series of fast-paced matches. After a strong effort and some impressive performances throughout the tournament, the combined Year 9 and 10 team secured a well-deserved 3rd place finish.



The Under 13 Boys' football team has had a limited programme of fixtures and training this term due to poor weather conditions, including light issues and waterlogged pitches. Regular fixtures are expected to resume after half term, and the team remains well positioned in the league. In recent Ealing League action, Drayton Manor High School secured a 3-2 victory against Villiers High School. The team has also progressed to the Quarter Final of the Year 8 Cup, where they are set to face Ark Soane Academy. This match has been scheduled for the first week back after Half-Term.



## MATCH REPORT AGAINST CHARTERHOUSE SCHOOL



On Tuesday 3 February, our school's football teams faced Charterhouse School in a challenging set of fixtures that provided plenty of competition and valuable experience.

Although results did not go our way, all three teams demonstrated commitment, resilience and excellent sportsmanship. The boys worked hard throughout and, most importantly, enjoyed the experience, gaining lessons that will be useful in future fixtures and well done to everyone involved for representing the school with pride.

## MATCH REPORT AGAINST MERCHANT TAYLOR'S SCHOOL



On Wednesday 4 February, our school football teams took on Merchant Taylors' School in a challenging afternoon of fixtures that tested determination and teamwork across all three sides. The Third Team, secured an exciting 3-2 victory in an end-to-end match.

The First Team were involved in a tightly contested match and looked set to earn a draw before conceding a late goal in the final minutes, resulting in a narrow 2-1 defeat. Despite the disappointment, the boys showed resilience and commitment throughout the game.

The Second Team faced a strong Merchant Taylors' side and battled hard but were unable to break through, eventually losing 4-0. However, the scoreline did not fully reflect the effort and work rate shown across the pitch.

Strong teamwork and determination helped them edge out the win in a thrilling contest. Overall, it was a valuable experience for all teams, with plenty of positives to take forward into future fixtures. Again, the players represented the school with pride and showed great spirit throughout the afternoon.

## MIDDLESEX CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS



On Tuesday 10 February, seven students from Drayton Manor proudly represented Ealing at the Middlesex Schools Cross Country Championships, held this year at Harrow School. They joined a strong borough team made up of runners from a range of local secondary schools, including Twyford, Ada Lovelace, Elthorne Park, and St Benedict's. The selected Drayton Manor students were Brody (7F), Megan (9L), Owen (9I), Sofia Mossi (10G), Cordelia (10G), Naimah (12.2), and Dante (12.3).

Despite muddy and overcast conditions, temperatures remained comfortable, and the rain held off until later in the afternoon. Many competitors commented that the redesigned course was an improvement on last year's, offering a smoother route and more enjoyable race experience.



The following students delivered an excellent set of performances on the day:

Owen (9I) (Junior Boys 3.5km) – 9th out of 59 - 0:13:04

Sofia (10G) (Inter Girls 4.2km) – 4th out of 46 - 0:17:58

Naimah (12.2) (Senior Girls 4.2km) – 3rd out of 20 - 0:17:50

These results reflect not only impressive athletic ability but also real resilience and ambition from every runner. We are incredibly proud of the way our students represented both Drayton Manor and the borough of Ealing.



We are also delighted to share that both Sofia and Naimah have been selected to represent Middlesex County at the English Schools Cross Country Championships, taking place at Sefton Park, Liverpool, on 7 March. This is a remarkable achievement and a testament to their outstanding performances and dedication to the sport.

## TRAMPOLINING



A team of students represented the school at the Borough Trampolining Competition on Friday 6 February, held at Ellen Wilkinson School. The event brought together competitors from Drayton Manor, Ellen Wilkinson, Cardinal Wiseman, Alec Reed Academy, Ealing Fields, and Featherstone, creating a vibrant and competitive atmosphere. Our students participated across a range of levels: Aeronwen Mercer competed in the intermediate category; Anastazja Sienkiewicz and Melissa Dedinca performed in the advanced category; and Fabia Wacha Mancebo represented the school in the novice category. For three of these students, the competition also served as valuable evidence for their GCSE PE practical examination, giving them the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and composure in a formal assessed setting.



## PE SCHOLARS

This term the Year 8 PE scholars have been completing theory and practical sessions purely focussed on risk assessment and safeguarding. Notably, they have been learning about the differences between risks, hazards, likelihood, probability and severity. Students were challenged on creating lists of each aspect of risk assessment, comparing these to daily activities, such as navigating the school site versus sporting activities based in the gym or top playground. They have also performed practical sessions where they have each been challenged to identify, spot and list hazards in fixed and changing scenarios. They would recognise how to modify a task, applying control measures, such as highlighting a risk and introducing a new rule or law, to make the activity safe.

## UNIVERSITY OF WEST LONDON: WOMEN IN STEM

Female students from Years 9 and 10 took part in Women in STEM sessions led by Professor Anastasia Sofroniou and Dr Nasim Dadashiserej. Students explored pathways in Mathematics, Computing and Artificial Intelligence, and heard about the speakers' personal journeys in STEM. The sessions gave students the chance to learn about real world applications, university courses and careers in these fields. The programme supports our aim to raise aspirations and increase female participation in STEM subjects.

## YEAR 12 ASSEMBLY WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER



Year 12 students attended an assembly focused on the UCAS process. The University of Leicester team explained the application timeline, what universities look for and the importance of wider experiences such as volunteering, gap years and co-curricular activities. Students also received clear

guidance on writing a strong personal statement and asked questions about subject choices and university expectations.

## ASSEMBLY WITH ST GEORGES' UNIVERSITY

Year 12 and Year 11 Gifted and Talented students attended a session on studying Law at university, led by a student ambassador. The talk covered course structure, key skills, typical entry requirements and the range of careers available to Law graduates. Students also learned about alternative pathways such as legal apprenticeships. The session helped students understand what studying Law involves and supported those considering future careers in the field.



## YEAR 12 TALK – MARKETING



On 20 January, the Year 12 cohort and Year 13 Media Studies students attended an engaging and insightful guest lecture delivered by Georgia Henry, CEO and Founder of Pitch Marketing Agency.

Georgia spoke in depth about the rapid and exponential growth of the marketing industry driven by social media platforms, particularly TikTok and Instagram, and how this has transformed the way brands connect with audiences. Drawing on her own career experiences, she explained how she identified emerging digital trends early on and successfully capitalised on them to establish her own marketing company. Students gained valuable insight into her work with influencer clients, the rise of online

communities such as BookTok, and how these spaces have reshaped the publishing and marketing landscapes. Georgia also shared the inspiration behind creating the TikTok Book Awards, highlighting how innovative ideas within social media can lead to industry-wide impact.

The lecture provided students with a real-world perspective on digital marketing, entrepreneurship, and the importance of adaptability and creativity in a rapidly evolving industry.

