

As we reach the end of another successful summer term, we look back with great pride on all that our students have achieved. From memorable events and enriching experiences to outstanding academic progress, there has been much to celebrate throughout the term. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we have fostered a vibrant and inspiring school community where every student is encouraged to grow, succeed, and thrive.

As the summer break begins, we wish all our families a restful and enjoyable holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new term, refreshed and ready for another exciting year ahead. Have a wonderful summer!

DRAYFEST 2026



On 8 July 2026, Drayton Manor High School held its annual festival showcasing the talents of students across a wide range of subjects, including music, art, DT, science, languages, history and even sport: Drayfest. This year's event was incredible, with numerous bands performing, including the Hot Embers, Mozartists, Greenhorns and many more. Their performances left the crowd cheering and swaying to the beat. We must admit that the performances were astonishing, but the fun didn't stop there.



Visitors could have their fortune read, play basketball and football, get their faces painted, and even write a wish before tying a leaf onto the magical Wish Tree. We haven't forgotten about the food; we know it's one of the most enticing parts! From loaded burgers and wedges to delicious hot dogs, there was something for everyone.



If you didn't make it this year, next year it's a must! Book your tickets and prepare to be transported into the thrilling world of Draytonian talent. We can't wait to see you there next year!



By Oishikha (Year 10)

SPEAKERS FOR SCHOOLS – GEOFF MORROW

Students recently had the opportunity to attend an inspiring careers talk delivered by Geoff Morrow, an accomplished songwriter, entrepreneur and creative producer whose career has spanned music, theatre, film and business. Throughout his career, Geoff has written songs for world-renowned artists including Elvis Presley, The Carpenters, Barry Manilow, Cliff Richard, Jessie J and the Jonas Brothers.

During the session, Geoff shared his personal career journey, reflecting on both the opportunities and challenges he encountered while building a successful career in the entertainment industry. He spoke about the wide range of pathways available within music, theatre, film and creative business, highlighting the importance of resilience, creativity and taking advantage of opportunities. Students were highly engaged throughout the talk, particularly when hearing about the artists he has worked with and the experiences he has gained across different areas of the industry.



The Q&A session generated thoughtful discussion, with many students seeking Geoff's advice on pursuing careers in music, theatre and other creative fields. Overall, the event provided a valuable opportunity for students to gain first-hand insight into the creative industries and was an inspiring and enriching experience for all who attended.

YEAR 8 FUN DAY – A FANTASTIC END TO THE YEAR

On Friday 3rd July, our Year 8 students enjoyed a fantastic Fun Day to celebrate the end of another successful school year. Despite the soaring temperatures, spirits remained high as everyone made the most of a well-deserved day of fun, laughter and celebration. The playing fields were full of energy, with students enjoying a range of activities alongside their friends. A particular highlight was the arrival of the ice cream van, which provided a welcome way to cool down in the summer heat and was a huge hit with everyone.

It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces as students relaxed, celebrated their achievements and created lasting memories together. The day was a fitting reward for all

of their hard work, resilience and enthusiasm throughout the year.



As we say goodbye to Year 8, we do so with great pride in everything they have accomplished. We are excited to see them continue to grow in confidence, embrace new challenges and flourish even further as they move into Year 9. With so many exciting opportunities ahead, we know they have a great deal to look forward to, and we cannot wait to see all that they will achieve next year. Well done, Year 8, and have a wonderful summer!



YEAR 9 HISTORY TRIP TO BELGIUM AND FRANCE



In June, our Year 9 students embarked on a memorable four-day History trip to Belgium and Northern France, exploring key First World War sites around Ypres and the Somme. Students deepened their understanding of the war through visits to significant cemeteries including Essex Farm, Langemark, and Tyne Cot, as well as the Passchendaele Museum and the interactive In Flanders Fields exhibition.
A highlight of the trip was attending the moving Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, providing a powerful moment of reflection on the sacrifices made during the war. The following day, students travelled to France to visit Vimy Ridge, Newfoundland Park, the Thiepval Memorial, and the Lochnagar Crater, gaining further insight into the scale and impact of the conflict.

MALCOLM DUFFY AUTHOR VISIT



On Thursday 25 June, Drayton Manor welcomed author Malcolm Duffy to share his experiences of being a writer as well as running a workshop for students in Year 7 in the library at lunchtime. It was fascinating to hear about his journey from studying Law at university and then becoming an advertising executive to finally following his dream of becoming an author. Students in year 7 were given the chance to write their own creative writing pieces and were able to learn from an expert firsthand. Let's hope the next young budding author is right here at Drayton Manor!

UCAS DAY

Our annual Year 12 UCAS Day provided students with a valuable opportunity to engage directly with higher education institutions and industry professionals as they begin to make decisions about their post-18 pathways. Representatives from a range of universities attended both in person and online, delivering subject-specific taster lectures and interactive sessions designed to give students a realistic insight into university-level study. Students also had access to expert guidance on key aspects of the university application process, including choosing a course and institution, student finance, personal statement writing, and linking degree choices to future career aspirations. In addition, students benefited from specialist sessions focused on competitive applications, including Oxbridge and Medicine, as well as information on alternative pathways and support available throughout higher education.

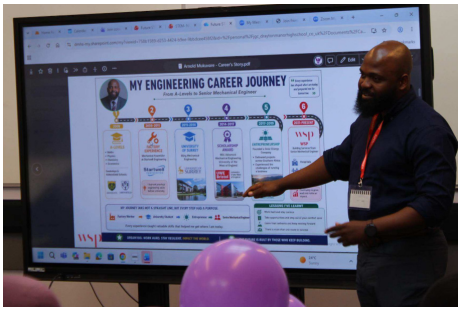


YEAR 10 AND YEAR 12 FUTURE STEM LINKS EVENT





The Future STEM Link Event, organised by a team of Year 12 students in partnership with Charity Den, provided students with an inspiring opportunity to explore a range of STEM career pathways and gain first-hand insight from professionals and academics.



Students heard from speakers working across science, engineering and healthcare, who shared their career journeys, experiences and advice on entering their respective fields.
The event helped students develop a deeper understanding of the varied routes into STEM careers and highlighted the importance of curiosity, resilience and lifelong learning.

SONGFEST BRINGS YOUNG VOICES TOGETHER



On Friday 19 June Drayton Manor High School was delighted to host SongFest, an Ealing Music Service project that formed part of the West London Music Hub's Big Summer of Sound initiative. The event welcomed around 30 pupils from West Twyford Primary School to join our Year 8 Vocal Scholars for a day of singing, collaboration and creativity.
Students took part in a vocal workshop before performing together in the Main Hall. Throughout the day, they worked on five songs, including A Little Bit Naughty from Matilda and Colours of the Wind from Pocahontas. Pupils enjoyed creating their own arrangements, adding harmonies and developing their performance skills as a combined choir.
The day culminated in a recording of their final performance, showcasing the hard work, teamwork and musical talent of all involved. SongFest was a fantastic celebration of singing and a wonderful opportunity for students from both schools to make music together and we look forward to future opportunities to collaborate with local primary schools.

YEAR 10 HISTORIANS' REWARDS TRIP TO WINDSOR



Our Year 10 historians enjoyed a well-deserved reward trip to Windsor Castle, recognising their hard work and commitment to GCSE History this year. The day began with an exciting arrival at Windsor Castle, where students explored some of the most iconic features of this historic royal residence.
The visit included a tour of St George's Chapel, followed by the spectacle of the Changing of the Guard on the Lower Ward parade ground. Students then visited the impressive State Apartments, gaining insight into royal life and the rich history of the monarchy.
In the afternoon, the group took part in a Normans workshop, further enhancing their understanding of medieval history in an engaging and interactive setting, before enjoying lunch together. The trip was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate students' achievements while bringing their historical learning to life.

GUITAR NATION VISIT



On Thursday 25 June, we were pleased to welcome Guitar Nation, who generously donated a bass guitar and acoustic guitar to support music in the school.
During their visit, Guitar Nation enjoyed a performance from our Year 7 band, Riff Fusion, whose enthusiasm and talent provided a fitting thank you for the donation.
A few weeks later, Guitar Nation returned for DrayFest and were delighted to see the instruments being used by students in live performances. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the impact of their support and celebrate the growing musical opportunities available to our students.



We would like to thank Guitar Nation for their generosity and continued support of music at Drayton Manor High School.

YEAR 9 TFL PROJECT GUARDIANS SESSION



Our Year 9 students recently participated in TfL's Project Guardian sessions; an informative programme designed to raise awareness of how to stay safe on public transport. The sessions explored the issues people can experience, common responses individuals may have, and the importance of reporting concerns. Students were also encouraged to understand the role of an active bystander and how they can safely support others and take care of themselves.

HEAD'S MERIT AWARDS CEREMONY



The Head's Merit Award Ceremony celebrated students across Years 7 to 10 who had received the highest number of merits throughout the academic year. The ceremony brought students together to recognise their consistent hard work, positive conduct and contributions to school life.
The students' achievements reflected the school's values of Ambition, Character and Civic Virtue. They demonstrated ambition through their determination to achieve their best, character through their positive

attitudes and resilience, and civic virtue through the respect, kindness and support they showed towards others.
Students were presented with certificates in recognition of their achievements. The ceremony provided a valuable opportunity to celebrate their success and encourage other students to demonstrate the school's values and work towards receiving similar recognition in the future.

QPR TRIP



Students who had been working with QPR as part of the school's intervention programmes were invited to visit Loftus Road for a special stadium tour. The trip was organised as a reward and to recognise the students' hard work, effort and positive engagement throughout the programmes.
During the visit, students explored the stadium and visited several behind-the-scenes areas that are not usually accessible to the public. They learned more about the history of QPR, the club's work within the local community and what happens behind the scenes on a matchday. Students also took part in interactive, in-house activities that helped them understand how a professional football club is run. They explored the different departments and responsibilities involved in operating a football club, including planning, teamwork, communication, marketing and decision-making. This gave them a valuable insight into the wide range of careers and opportunities available within the football industry beyond playing and coaching.
The students thoroughly enjoyed the visit and engaged positively throughout the day. They asked thoughtful questions, worked well together and represented the school extremely well. The trip was a memorable experience and an excellent way to reward students for their progress, commitment and positive contributions to the intervention programmes.

ALUMNI VISIT – FAIZ GULL

Year 7 and Year 8 Gifted and Talented students attended an engaging session delivered by alumni Faiz Gull, who is currently studying at the University of Warwick. The session introduced students to the concept of higher education and provided a clear overview of GCSEs and the importance of making informed subject choices. Faiz shared his own journey through school, highlighting how effort, resilience and consistent commitment to learning can significantly impact future opportunities in sixth form, college and beyond. He emphasised the importance of using time effectively, seeking support from teachers, and maintaining a positive mindset throughout secondary education. The session was particularly valuable in encouraging students to think ahead from an early stage, helping them become more aware of their academic pathways and the long-term benefits of sustained effort.

WEST LONDON VOCAL DAY



On Sunday 21 June, Drayton Manor High School's Year 9 and 10 Vocal Collective proudly represented Ealing Borough at the West London Vocal Day held at Opera Holland Park. The event brought together choirs from across West London in a celebration of singing and musical excellence. With this year's theme focusing on Country Music, our students performed an a cappella arrangement of Bring Me Little Water, Silvy, featuring impressive body percussion, alongside a lively rendition of Wagon Wheel by Old Crow Medicine Show.
The Vocal Collective impressed both audience members and fellow performers with their clear harmonies, energetic stage presence and confident conducting skills. Their commitment and enthusiasm were evident throughout the day, making them outstanding ambassadors for both the school and the borough.
We are incredibly proud of all the students involved for their hard work, professionalism and memorable performances. It was a fantastic opportunity to perform in such a prestigious venue and celebrate the joy of singing with young musicians from across West London.
Click here to see the full performances.

YEAR 12 ECONOMICS STUDENTS SHINE IN THE CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL CHALLENGE



The Cambridge National Economics Challenge is a national competition that tests students' Economics knowledge and problem-solving skills, and we would like to offer a huge congratulations to our Year 12 Economics students who recently took part in it.
The following students were awarded the Mint Award in recognition of their excellent performance:

- Sid
- Ayaan
- Jebishan
- Adam
- Simeon

In addition, Sebastian was awarded the prestigious Sovereign Award, which is presented to the top 10% of participants nationally, making this an especially impressive achievement.
This is a fantastic accomplishment and reflects the hard work, commitment and enthusiasm shown by all of our students. A huge well done and congratulations to everyone who took part.

ALUMNI VISIT – BILLY HUGHES

Year 12 Gifted and Talented students, alongside those considering applications to Oxford or Cambridge, attended a highly informative session delivered by alumni Billy Hughes, who is currently studying History at the University of Cambridge. Billy shared valuable insights into his own academic journey, including effective study strategies, preparation for A Levels, and how to build a strong Oxbridge application. He provided practical guidance on the UCAS process,

admissions tests, and interviews, as well as offering an honest perspective on life at Oxbridge, including the academic workload and support available. Students particularly benefited from hearing first-hand experiences from a current undergraduate, which helped explain the application process and gave them a clearer understanding of what to expect. The session was inspiring and informative, encouraging students to be proactive in their studies and ambitious in their future aspirations.

QPR CELEBRATION EVENT

The QPR Celebration Event brought together students who had participated in QPR programmes and interventions across the academic year. The event celebrated their successful completion of the programmes and recognised the effort, progress and commitment they had demonstrated throughout the year.

The celebration gave students an opportunity to reflect on their individual journeys, the skills they had developed and the positive contributions they had made. Students were presented with certificates to recognise their achievements and participation. They also enjoyed refreshments and took part in a quiz alongside their peers and members of the QPR team.

The event created a positive atmosphere in which students could celebrate their successes and feel proud of what they had achieved. It was also an opportunity to thank the QPR team for their continued support and the positive relationships they had developed with our students. The celebration marked a successful end to the programmes and encouraged students to continue demonstrating the confidence, resilience and positive decision-making skills they had developed.

CAMBRIDGE CHEMISTRY CHALLENGE



The Cambridge Chemistry Challenge is an examination set by teachers at the University of Cambridge and is designed for Year 12 students. It allows students to apply their chemistry knowledge and skills to problems that go beyond the A-level curriculum, encouraging deeper scientific thinking and problem-solving. This year, over 15,000 students participated nationally.

Students who achieved in the top 30% of participants were awarded the Copper Award. Those in the top 20% received the Silver Award, while students in the top 9% achieved the prestigious Gold Award.

We are delighted to recognise the following students for their outstanding performance:

Copper Award

- Abdul
- Jack
- Rayan
- Syeda
- Omar
- Patryk
- Vishvendran

Silver Award

- Elizabeth
- Faris

Gold Award

- Louie
- Max

Congratulations to all the students who took part in this year's challenge. Their dedication, curiosity, and commitment to academic excellence are a credit to themselves and to the school. A special well done to all of our certificate winners on this fantastic achievement!

CELEBRATING SUCCESS AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

We were delighted to take our Year 7 students, Aoi, Saarah and Pola, and their friends to the Royal Academy of Arts to celebrate the opening of the Young Artists' Summer Show. Their collaborative acrylic painting, created during Ms Flores' lunchtime Art Club, was selected for this prestigious national exhibition from more than 25,000 entries, with only 250 artworks chosen to be displayed.

The visit was a fantastic opportunity for the students to see their work exhibited in one of the UK's most renowned galleries, alongside artwork by young artists from across the country. During the opening event, they proudly spoke to members of the public about their creative process, the inspiration behind their painting, and what it was like to work together as a team. It was wonderful to see them representing the school with such confidence, enthusiasm and pride. We are incredibly proud of this outstanding achievement and look forward to seeing what they create next.



YEAR 8 EALING BOROUGH ROUNDERS VICTORY

Our Year 8 rounders team played a great tournament and showed excellent teamwork, effort and sportsmanship throughout. Everyone contributed, whether through strong batting, quick fielding, or encouraging teammates. We worked hard from start to finish and gave our best performance on the pitch. A special shout-out goes to Mrs Williams for her amazing coaching and support. Her encouragement, advice and dedication helped us improve our skills and confidence. Thank you, Mrs Williams, for all your hard work and for helping us perform at our best. Well done, Year 8s!

By Grace (Year 8)

YEAR 7 EALING BOROUGH ROUNDERS SUCCESS



We had a lovely day at Ellen Wilkinson School. Everyone was playing their hardest and had a great time. Our first game was against Dormers Wells, and we won 8 – 3 ½. Our next opponent was Villiers who we triumphed against with a win of 14 – 2 ½. It left us feeling excited and we could not wait for our next game. We qualified for the final and knew at that moment we were there to win it all. In the field, we came up against Featherstone, who were tough competition. At the end of play, we were tied 4 – 4. It came down to the number of players remaining on the field. Drayton was victorious with a clear majority of players in the game. Our team held a vote for the best fielder and best batter of the tournament. Best fielder was awarded to Imogen, and best batter to Barbara. Overall, everyone was brilliant and we could not have done it without Mrs Williams, and Ellen Wilkinson School's invitation to host and facilities. Well done, Year 7 Rounders!
By Imogen (Year 7)

SPORTS DAY 2026



On Friday 10 July, we held our Annual Inter-House Sports Day at Perivale Park Athletics Track. It was exciting to have the entire school come together to compete and celebrate the impressive athletic performances of their peers. There were over 500 students competing in athletics events throughout the day. Throughout the morning, students who remained onsite also competed in Interhouse Challenges to win valuable points for their house.



Despite the heat, students displayed true character and ambition to compete in 12 different events. The overall points were close between the four Houses going into the afternoon track events. However, a strong performance from both the boys and girls in the 4x100m relays sealed the win for Griffin.



Final Position	House	Total Points
1st	Griffin	895
2nd	Phoenix	845
3rd	Caladrius	834
4th	Pegasus	779





END OF YEAR SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

As we wrap up another busy summer term, we are celebrating everything from Sports Day to our PE scholars, plus athletics, girls' rounders, and cricket. Here is what has been happening in Drayton Manor sport this half term.

ATHLETICS

It's been a standout term for Drayton Manor Athletics, with two Wilkinson Sword competitions showcasing the strength and depth of our athletes across the school.

On 1 May, our Junior (Years 8 and 9) and Intermediate (Years 10 and 11) athletes attended the competition at Perivale Park Athletics Track. A squad of 46 students, accompanied by Mr Bowman, Mrs Williams and Coach Sarim, went up against 16 other schools from across the Borough.



The results were superb. Congratulations to our Intermediate Girls and Intermediate Boys, who both took 1st place in their respective competitions, while the Junior Boys placed 2nd and the Junior Girls 4th. Across the day, our athletes claimed an impressive 7 gold, 9 silver and 8 bronze medals out of 46 events. Special mention must go to Sofia Mossi and Owen Stubbins, who each won 1st place in both of their individual events - a brilliant achievement.
Our Year 7 and Year 8 athletes then had their turn on 12 June to compete for the Wilkinson Sword. They brought home 4 gold, 6 silver and 1 bronze, with the following team performances: the Year 7 boys finished 3rd, the Year 8 boys tied for 6th, the Year 7 girls tied for 4th, and the Year 8 girls placed 4th. Notable individual performances came from Charlotte, Codie, Hugo, and Joshua who each won two medals in their events.



Overall, our team finished in 2nd and it was a brilliant showing from start to finish, with individual and team performances that we are incredibly proud of. The standard of our athletes remains as high as ever across all year groups, and the character, ambition and

resilience shown throughout the competition speak volumes about this group. We cannot wait for next season, when we will be back on the track, hungrier than ever to reclaim the Wilkinson Sword.



Following their exceptional performances at the Wilkinson Sword, 27 of our athletes qualified to represent Team Ealing in the Middlesex Schools Athletics Championships. Congratulations to the following students for their selection: Owen, Sofia, Kensuke, Mikal, Sonny, Codie, Uma, Leo, Marzio, Jahvani, Adil, Charlie, Arwa, Ayanna, Maysa, Charlotte, Ariana, Barbara, Delilah, Natalia, Joshua, Hugo, Brody, Carmelo, Alix, John, and Younge.



CRICKET

Cricket training has had an encouraging turnout throughout the summer. It has been fantastic to see so many students committed to developing their skills, and training has continued right through the season.

On the fixtures front, the Under 15 team faced a challenging term, only managing to play two of their six scheduled hardball matches. Both were closely contested affairs against Greenford and Featherstone. Unfortunately, the remaining three fixtures fell victim to the British summer at its most unpredictable - a mix of extreme heat and heavy rain and lightning meant these matches had to be abandoned as draws. Despite the disruption, it has been pleasing to see the squad's enthusiasm undimmed, and we look forward to a fuller fixture list next season.

PE SCHOLARS



Our PE Scholars came together on 14 July for their end-of-year Celebration. It was a chance to reflect on and commemorate everything they have achieved this year. It has been a year of growth and responsibility for the group, who developed their skills across a range of areas: coaching their peers, developing their knowledge of sport, running tournaments, leading warm-ups in lessons, supporting at Drayfest, and proudly representing Drayton Manor across our sports teams.



It was wonderful to celebrate their hard work together at the Celebration event. We look forward to building on this fantastic progress next year, as the Scholars continue to develop their leadership skills and take on new opportunities across the school.

Thank You

A huge thank you to all our students who took part in sport this term - your energy, commitment and sportsmanship have made it a memorable summer season. Thank you also to our staff, whose dedication in coaching, organising and supporting these events makes everything possible, and to our Year 12 students, whose support at fixtures and competitions throughout the year has been invaluable.

We hope all our students have a fantastic, active and safe summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the autumn sport season, with football, netball, rugby, basketball and cross country all on the horizon. Here is to another brilliant year of Drayton Manor sport!



THE GREAT HOUSE CHALLENGE

Sports Day featured a fantastic range of activities that allowed students to showcase different skills and strengths. Matt Ball and Line Ball required teamwork, communication, and quick thinking, with students working together to pass, defend, and score points effectively. Volleyball encouraged coordination, cooperation, and perseverance, as teams supported one another and adapted their strategies throughout each match. Relay races brought excitement and energy to the day, highlighting speed, teamwork, and trust between teammates. These activities were not only competitive but also inclusive, allowing students of all abilities to participate and contribute. Throughout every event, students demonstrated determination, resilience, and a positive attitude, even when faced with tough opponents or unexpected challenges. The variety of activities ensured that everyone had the opportunity to get involved and enjoy the day. Teachers and spectators were impressed by the level of effort, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship shown across all events. The smiles, laughter, and encouragement seen during these activities truly reflected the spirit of Sports Day, making it a fun and rewarding experience for all participants.



HANWELL ROOTS AND ROUTES CONFERENCE



On Tuesday 14 July, Drayton Manor hosted the Hanwell Roots and Routes Conference, which brought together industry leaders from a range of fields, many of whom are Drayton Manor alumni. During the event, they spoke to students across all year groups, sharing insights into their careers and experiences.



At lunchtime, tutor representatives had the opportunity to meet with the industry leaders and gain a better understanding of the pathways that led them into their chosen professions. A common message shared with our students was to pursue a career they are passionate about and to be willing to take risks in order to achieve their goals.







YEAR 7 AND YEAR 8 STUDENT SCHOLARS EVENT



Throughout the year, our Year 7 and Year 8 Scholars have worked hard on a variety of projects, developing not only their own skills but also supporting the growth of others. Through these experiences, they have gained valuable knowledge, strengthened their leadership abilities, and made a positive impact within our school community.



The Scholar's Event was a great opportunity to celebrate our students' achievements and invite them to share and present their work from this year.



NEC ASPERA TERRENT

KEY DATES TO INCLUDE:

- **Summer break**
  Friday 17 July – 1 September
- **GCSE Results Day**
  Thursday 20 August
- **A-level Results Day**
  Thursday 13 August
- Summer School
  Wednesday 26 August and Thursday 27 August
- **Start of term**
  Wednesday 2 September:
  - Year 7 & 11 start at 11.15am
  - Year 12 start at 12.15pm
- **Start of term for whole school**
  Thursday 3 September:
  All year groups at 08.50

NEC ASPERA TERRENT