



We are delighted to share that Drayton Manor High School has been recognised with an SSAT Educational Outcomes Award, placing us in the top 10% of non-selective schools nationally for student attainment in the 2025 GCSE examinations. This prestigious award reflects the hard work and dedication of our students and staff, and we are incredibly proud of what has been achieved together.

SSAT Educational Outcomes Award 2025
Exceptional Student Attainment

Awarded to
Drayton Manor High School

In recognition for being in the top 10% of non-selective schools nationally for student attainment in the 2025 end of KS4 exams

Sue Williamson
Sue Williamson
Chief Executive

ssat
The schools, students and teachers network



architecture and impressive facilities. The visit also included a question and answer discussion with current university students, who shared insights about their own experiences, the challenges they have faced, what they enjoy most about university life and advice they would give to prospective students. During the afternoon, students took part in an interactive activity in which they designed their own university societies, encouraging creativity, teamwork and a deeper understanding of student life beyond the classroom.



18 of our A Level Physics students enjoyed an inspiring and enriching visit to Geneva on 19-21 March 2026. Students received a tour of CERN where they gained first-hand insights into the world of particle physics and how new particles are discovered.



YEAR 9 ROYAL HOLLOWAY TRIP



Year 9 students took part in a visit to Royal Holloway, University of London, providing them with a valuable introduction to higher education. The day began with a session in one of the university's lecture theatres, where students learned about what university is, the history of Royal Holloway and the range of degree programmes available across the UK. The presentation also included an introduction to student finance, helping students understand university costs and how tuition fees and financial support work. Following the session, students joined a guided campus tour, giving them the opportunity to explore the university grounds, which are known for their historic

Overall, it was a very positive and enriching day. The trip provided students with meaningful exposure to university life and supported them in considering higher education as a future option.



Alongside the educational experiences, students also explored the beautiful city, taking in its lakeside views and historic landmarks. It was a memorable trip that broadened horizons and sparked curiosity well beyond the classroom.

GENEVA TRIP





YEAR 9 CAREERS DAY

This term we held our annual Year 9 Careers Day, welcoming an exciting range of visiting professionals from a variety of industries, including a number of alumni. The event is designed to give students meaningful encounters with employers and broaden their understanding of the many pathways available beyond school.

Throughout the day, visitors worked with small groups of students, sharing



their personal career journeys, real-world experiences and helpful advice for those interested in similar fields. Each session was tailored to the expertise of the professional, with a mix of presentations, demonstrations and hands-on activities that offered an engaging insight into different sectors. Students heard from an impressive selection of industries this year, including engineers from British Airways, estate agents, a veterinary surgeon and nurse, sports coaches, architects and many others. After each session, students had the chance to ask questions and reflect on what they had learned, helping them develop a clearer sense of what various careers involve and the skills employers value.



The day was extremely well received and proved highly beneficial for our Year 9 cohort. It broadened their awareness of future possibilities, sparked new ideas and provided valuable inspiration directly from those working in the world of work. Overall, it was a positive and impactful event that supported students' aspirations as they begin to consider their next steps.



QPR PROJECT



First 11 (Lionesses) is a major anti-racism initiative in football that celebrates the first Black players to represent different clubs and the England Lionesses. The project highlights the pioneering contributions these players made to the game while promoting diversity, education and inclusion. It is supported by organisations such as the PFA and The FA.



During the visit, students learned about the importance of challenging racism and discrimination in sport and society, explored the exhibition displays, and also had the opportunity to take part in a stadium tour, which was a fantastic experience for them. The session helped students reflect on the role football can play in promoting equality and respect.

GEOGRAPHY FIELDTRIP

108 GCSE Geography students completed the final day of their fieldwork in preparation for their summer exams. Throughout the day, students gathered a wide range of primary data at key sites across Ealing town centre, including pedestrian and traffic counts, environmental quality surveys, field sketches, and short interviews with members of the public.

This fieldwork enabled students to explore how major regeneration projects around Dickens Yard and Filmworks have shaped both the local environment and the economy. The experience provided valuable first-hand insight, and conversations with local business owners highlighted the significant impact that urban regeneration has had on the community.

SCHOLARS UPDATE

Year 7 Scholars Celebration Event

On Wednesday 11 March, we held our annual Year 7 Scholars Celebration Event to recognise all students who were successfully selected for this year's programme. The event celebrated the character, ambition and academic promise shown by our new Scholars across a wide range of disciplines.

Students began the morning by registering with their Period 1 teachers before gathering in the Main Hall. The celebration included:

- A welcome speech
- The presentation of certificates for each academic discipline
- Formal group photographs for every subject area

Each Scholar was invited onto the stage to receive their certificate before joining their subject group for photographs. As a small reward for their achievement, all Scholars also received a free cookie token to enjoy later in the term.

This event marked an important milestone for our Year 7 cohort, and we look forward to seeing their academic passions and leadership grow over the coming years.

Classics Scholars





Classics Scholars have been meeting weekly to develop their ancient Greek skills, strengthening their understanding of grammar, syntax and etymology. After Easter, they will begin preparing responses to the question "What have the Greeks and Romans ever done for us?" through analytical essays or creative pieces inspired by ancient art and culture. These will be shared in the Summer Term with the Classics Club and in assemblies.

Computing Scholars



Computing Scholars have been working on a long-term project to design a prototype AI School Chatbot. After researching the benefits, risks and ethical considerations of AI use in schools, they presented their findings before moving into a hands-on coding and design phase. Students are now developing skills in interface design, computational thinking and digital ethics through a simple GUI-based model.

Maths Scholars



Maths Scholars have continued meeting fortnightly to tackle rich mathematical challenges. This term they have:

- created mathematical artwork and music using Polypad
- explored pattern, symmetry and sequences
- investigated linear programming and optimal solutions
- prepared for the Junior Maths Challenge by refining problem-solving strategies

Next term, they will begin learning about ciphers — exploring how mathematical ideas underpin coding systems used in the real world.

Music Scholars



Music Scholars have had an energetic and inspiring term. All Scholars were invited to Classical Soloists' Night and our regular Lunchtime Concerts. Instrumental Scholars have developed improvisation and ensemble leadership skills in weekly musicianship sessions, with Year 7 joining Year 8 this term. Vocal Scholars have participated in weekly choral development, led singing assemblies, performed at Classical Soloists' Night, and supported a whole-year workshop with vocal leader James Sills. Both vocal and instrumental groups are now preparing for Summer Term performances as part of our partnership work with the Ealing Music Service and local primary schools.

PE Scholars



Year 8 PE Scholars have been working on a structured programme focused on Risk Assessment and Safeguarding in sport. They have explored hazards, likelihood, severity and control measures, and will soon apply this knowledge by completing their own risk assessments and leading aspects of inter-school tournaments. They are also developing coaching and officiating skills in sports such as Pickleball and Table Tennis.

Year 7 PE Scholars begin their programme on Wednesday 4 March, focusing on planning and delivering warm-ups, drills, matches and tournaments. Later in the year, they will run their own sporting events and take part in an external visit to a sports club or institution.



YEAR 13 ASSEMBLY – UNIVERSITY OF EXETER STUDENT FINANCE AND MANAGING YOUR MONEY SESSION

Year 13 students took part in an informative assembly delivered by representatives from the University of Exeter on student finance and money management. The session provided a clear overview of the student finance process, including tuition fee loans, maintenance loans, grants and additional support available for eligible students. Presenters also discussed budgeting, living expenses, and key financial considerations students should be aware of when preparing for university life. Practical advice and guidance were shared to help students plan effectively and make informed decisions about their finances. The session was highly valuable as students prepare for the transition to higher education.

ENCORE



Drayton Manor High School is proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our young musicians at this year's Ealing Borough Battle of the Bands competition, ENCORE. Competing against talented groups from across the borough, our students showcased impressive musicality, teamwork, and spirit. We proudly entered two bands, a Reggae Band and a Funk Band, both of which impressed the judges with their outstanding energy,



musicianship, and stage presence. Their performances earned the school a £150 prize for the Music Department.

Throughout the competition, our students showed exceptional character, teamwork, and professionalism, representing the school with pride. They were a true credit to Drayton Manor.



ALUMNUS VISITS - MIA RETURNS!

Drayton Manor High School was delighted to welcome back former student Mia Lepper, who is currently studying at drama school, for an inspiring talk and workshop with our Music and Drama students.

Mia spoke about creative pathways after GCSEs and A Levels, sharing her journey from Drayton Manor to drama school and offering practical advice on studying and working in the arts. Students then took part in a dynamic workshop exploring performance skills and creative expression.

Our learners engaged brilliantly, asking thoughtful questions and approaching activities with enthusiasm. They were a real credit to the school.

We are grateful to Mia for returning to support and encourage the next generation of performers.

'DARE TO DREAM' SCHOOL PRODUCTION

On Wednesday 18 March Drayton Manor High School proudly presented its production of Disney's 'Dare to Dream', featuring talented performers from Year 7 to Year 10. The show brought together lively singing, dancing, and acting, creating a colourful celebration of some of Disney's most loved music, woven around a story about finding and following your own dream.

Students showed fantastic commitment and enthusiasm throughout rehearsals and performances, demonstrating teamwork, creativity, and confidence on stage. Their hard work resulted in a joyful and memorable production that truly impressed the audience. Well done to all cast and crew for a wonderful performance that encouraged everyone to 'dare to dream.'



PE NEWS

As there are a several fixtures left to play, a further update will be given in the May half term newsletter. Thank you to all members of staff, and sixth form students, who have helped coach teams and run clubs this season.

Girls Football – Excellent Performances!



The Under 14 Girls team have had a spectacular season, showcasing skill, determination, and true team spirit! They powered through the League competition undefeated, an incredible achievement that highlights their consistency and hard work. In Cup action, the girls delivered a thrilling 3–2 victory over Elthorne Park in the quarterfinal, before meeting a strong Ada Lovelace side in the semifinal. Although the journey ended there, the team's fighting performance was inspiring from start to finish. A huge thank you to Mrs Williams, Coach Sarim, and Coach Hoda for their commitment and enthusiasm in planning and delivering weekly training sessions. Their support has been invaluable. We now eagerly await the team's final league placement after the Easter holidays. We are very excited to see this team grow as they have high potential!

Boys Football – Borough Champions (1st XI)



The Under 18 1st XI were undefeated in the Ealing Borough League which means they are the overall winners this season. The Under 18 2nd XI football team displayed impressive resilience and strong character throughout the season, often facing sides with significantly greater experience. Although the scorelines did not always favour us, the squad consistently demonstrated outstanding team spirit, commitment, and mutual support. Their positive attitude and perseverance have established a strong foundation on which to build, providing momentum and promise for continued development next season.



For the Under 18 teams, Mr Grudgings, Mr Black and Mr Bowman continue to broaden competitive opportunities by engaging with independent schools across West London and beyond. Now in their second year, the cup competitions included the DMU Cup (St Benedict's), the Charterhouse Cup (Charterhouse School), the Merchant Taylors' Cup (Merchant Taylors' School), the Hampton Cup (Hampton School), the Harroddian Cup (Harroddian School), and the UCS Cup (University College School). This season also saw the introduction of new cup competitions



against Bradfield College and Highgate School, further enriching the programme and providing our players with additional high-quality competitive experiences. It was an excellent season of football, during which our players consistently demonstrated exemplary character, ambition, and civic virtue. We look forward to continuing, and further expanding, these competitions next year.



The Year 8 boys' football team have enjoyed an excellent season, highlighted by a remarkable Ealing Cup victory in the semifinal over Cardinal Wiseman. After trailing 1-0 at half-time, the team showed impressive resolve to recover from a late 1-2 deficit, equalising to force extra time and ultimately winning 6-5 on penalties. With two outstanding saves from the goalkeeper and a composed final spot-kick, the team secured their place in the Ealing Cup final after the Easter break. Their League campaign has also been strong. Although narrowly defeated by Ealing Fields, they delivered an emphatic 8-0 win against Alec Reed Academy, followed by a determined 3-2 victory over Villiers and a walkover win against Islip Manor. Their final league position will be confirmed after their concluding fixture against Dormers Wells next week. The team have represented the school with distinction throughout, demonstrating skill, teamwork, and resilience. We congratulate them on an excellent season so far and look forward to their upcoming Cup final.



Boys Basketball

The Boys' basketball teams have also gone from strength to strength with quality coaching from Coach Black and Coach Dawkins - it has been another great season for their teams.

The Year 7 boys have continued to show terrific attitude in training, and numbers have remained high since the start of the season. In March, they played a friendly match against Twyford High School.

This season has been electric on the court! Every player has trained with determination and passion, earning a well-deserved place in Coach Black's Junior and Senior squads. Although our teams didn't get the chance to defend last year's Jnr NBA 3x3 Trophy, they've set their sights on dominating the Ealing Leagues instead.

The Junior Boys have shown tremendous growth, sharpening both their individual skills and their teamwork throughout the season. Their hard work paid off in a thrilling semi-final victory over local rivals Cardinal Wiseman, securing their spot in the League Final which took place at Ada Lovelace High School on the 23 March where the students became the league winners.!

Meanwhile, the Senior Boys have delivered another powerhouse season. With unwavering focus and consistency in both training and competition, they stormed through the League unbeaten. Their semi-final win also against Cardinal Wiseman has set the stage for a highly anticipated final. Where the Ada Lovelace High School on Monday 23 March, to be crowned Senior Borough Champions.

Congrats and well done to all our players.

Girls Basketball – Junior Girls Borough Champions!



In Girls Basketball, the determination of the team has shone brightly this season, with players training tirelessly each week. That hard work paid off in spectacular fashion as the team powered their way to 1st place in the KS3 Girls Basketball Ealing Borough Tournament! A huge congratulations to all the players for their commitment, teamwork,

and ambition. And a special thank you to Coach Dawkins and Coach Concielle, whose energy, expertise, and weekly training sessions have been instrumental in driving the team's success. What a phenomenal achievement!

Netball

Netball Club has been buzzing with energy this season! Every Thursday after school, and during lunchtimes, our players have been hitting the courts with determination, teamwork and plenty of enthusiasm. We are incredibly grateful to Ms Kear, Coach Lisa, Evie and Mabel for their brilliant coaching and encouragement throughout the term.



Our Year 7 team showed fantastic progress, earning a well-fought draw against Dormers Wells and finishing the season on a high with a confident win against Greenford. The Year 7 netball team, accompanied by Ms. Kear, took part in the Ealing Borough Tournament on Tuesday 10 February at Ellen Wilkinson School. They faced a challenging group stage, competing against teams from Twyford and Ealing Fields, Featherstone, and Villiers. Although their strong effort was commendable, it was not enough to advance to the semi-final stage, on this occasion the students show great promise and we look forward to hearing about their progress next term.

Meanwhile, our Year 9 team put in so much effort in their league campaign, going undefeated across the season. We're now eagerly awaiting confirmation of the final league standings and will keep you updated.

COMING UP NEXT TERM

In the summer term, we will be running Cricket, Rounders and Athletics clubs, so keep an eye on the Student Bulletin and PE notice board for more information. Team selection for the Wilkinson Sword Athletics Competition will take place next term, with trials taking place in PE/Games lessons.



CHESS CLUB



This term, the school has launched its chess club lessons, and we're delighted to be part of this exciting initiative. Led by UK National Master Tomer Eden, who has played chess since age four, the club offers students expert guidance in a fun, engaging environment while helping them develop their skills and individual thinking.



ALUMNI-LED DJ WORKSHOP



We were delighted to welcome back members of our alumni community for an exciting DJ workshop focused on the creative industries, particularly careers in music. Our alumni DJs spoke to students about their own paths into the sector, offering insight into both the artistic and technical sides of music production and performance. Across a one hour session, students from Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 enjoyed live demonstrations on professional DJ decks.



They learned how to blend tracks, control transitions and experiment with sound, skills demonstrated expertly by our alumni, who brought energy and enthusiasm to the room. Students were thrilled to have the opportunity to try the equipment themselves, making the workshop highly interactive and engaging. They were also able to explore the decks independently, experimenting with effects, mixing styles and creating their own mini sets, which gave them the freedom to be creative and build confidence in a hands-on environment.



The session was a great success, with students describing it as fun, inspiring and eye opening. It was wonderful to see how positively they responded to hands-on learning in the creative field. We hope to offer more workshops that support and nurture students' interests in creative pathways, including music and other arts related careers. It was also a pleasure to have our alumni back on site, giving back to the school community and serving as real role models for our current students.



We look forward to continuing this partnership and building further opportunities for our young people.

SPRING TERM BREAK

30 March – 10 April 2026

FIRST DAY SUMMER TERM

Monday 13 April

EVENTS FOR SUMMER TERM

- GCSE Art Exams -16 & 17 April
- MFL Speaking Exams – 20 & 27 April
- Battle of the Bands – 22 April
- Year 7 Parents Evening – 23 April
- A Level Art Exams – 23 & 24 April
- Year 8 Parents Evening – 30 April
- Year 11 & 13 Photographs – 1 May
- A Level MFL Speaking Exam – 5 May
- Start of Exams – 7 May
- Year 12 Trip to New York – 20 May



We hope our families have a restful Easter break and we look forward to welcoming everybody back after the holidays

