



As the days grow longer and the sun shines brighter, we are delighted to share the latest happenings from our vibrant community. This term has been filled with exciting events, remarkable achievements, and inspiring stories, and we cannot wait to take you through the highlights. Whether it is celebrating student successes, recapping memorable activities, or looking ahead to upcoming events, there's something for everyone in this edition. Enjoy!

BATTLE OF THE BANDS: A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



The much-anticipated Battle of the Bands returned with a bang on Wednesday, 30 April, delivering an electrifying evening of live music as our talented students took the stage to compete for the coveted trophy. The atmosphere was buzzing with excitement, and the event proved to be a resounding success! Judges Andrew Levy and Laura Darton faced the challenging task of selecting the winners after a thrilling lineup, with a fun and unforgettable intermission that had the audience laughing and singing along. After intense deliberation, the results were announced - First Place went to Hot Coals and Embers, Second Place was secured by 6 Degrees, and Third Place was awarded to RIFF. Click here to read the full story on the school Blog!

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION VISITS DRAYTON MANOR



We were honoured to welcome the Secretary of State for Education, The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP, to Drayton Manor High School recently. During her visit, she spoke with students and staff about the government's plans to expand mental health provision in schools. She announced that by next year, one in six secondary schools will have access to a dedicated mental health professional, extending vital support to nearly one million more pupils across England. More details will be shared with Parents soon.



BOROUGH TRIUMPH FOR JUNIOR AND INTERMEDIATE ATHLETES: 17 GOLD AND 7 SILVER MEDALS



Our Junior (Years 8 and 9) and Intermediate (Years 10 and 11) athletes showcased their talent and determination at the Wilkinson Sword competition, the prestigious Ealing Borough Trophy for the best overall school in athletics. A team of 42 students, led by Mr Bowman and Mrs Williams, travelled to Perivale Park Athletics Track to compete against 15 other schools. Congratulations to the Junior Boys, Intermediate Girls, and Intermediate Boys for securing First place in their respective categories, while the Junior Girls impressively claimed Second place. Our athletes took home an outstanding 17 gold and 7 silver medals across 46 events. A special thank you to the Sixth Form students Concielle, Hoda, Freddie, and Ariana for their invaluable support on the day. We look forward to seeing our Year 7 athletes compete for the Wilkinson Sword on Friday 6 June!

DRAYTON MANOR U16 BASKETBALL TEAM TRIUMPHS IN REGIONAL FINALS



The Drayton Manor boys' Under 16 basketball team made their mark at the London Youth Games Jr. NBA 3v3 West London Regional Finals. Organised by the NBA and London Marathon Events, this thrilling tournament aims to boost school participation in the fast-growing sport of 3v3 basketball. Representing Ealing, Drayton Manor faced top schools from Brent, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, and Hounslow. After winning all their group games, the team advanced to the semi-final, claiming a decisive victory and setting up a highly anticipated final against their closest rivals. In a tense and fiercely contested match, Drayton Manor defeated Lampton School (Hounslow) to be crowned West London Regional Champions, earning their spot in the finals at Trafalgar Square on June 6. Congratulations to the team on this incredible achievement!

UNDER 14 GIRLS SHINE SILVER MEDALLISTS IN EALING LEAGUE FINALS

Following a phenomenal unbeaten run, the Under 14 Girls' Football Team proudly represented Drayton Manor in the Ealing League (East Side) Final on Wednesday 21 May, facing a strong William Perkin side. Despite the hot conditions and a challenging pitch, our team brought energy, cohesion, and unwavering determination to the final. Standout performances came from Rahma, whose four critical saves kept hopes alive, and Yui, who led the press with three on-target shots. Cordelia's relentless pace, Amy's



fierce tackling and long-range efforts, Alice's assertive all-pitch presence, and Eloise's exceptional leadership as captain kept the momentum in our favour. The team's silver medals reflect an exceptional season marked by resilience, skill, and spirit. A heartfelt thank you goes to Mrs Williams for her tireless coaching, and to Grace and Abby in Year 10 for their vital support throughout the campaign. More success surely lies ahead for this talented squad!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNDER 18 1ST XI ON BEING CROWNED EALING BOROUGH FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS!

Congratulations to the Drayton Manor High School U18 1st XI, who have triumphed as champions of the Ealing Borough U18 1st XI League after an incredible unbeaten season. The team secured the title with crucial victories against five of their six league opponents and a draw in the remaining match, showcasing consistent performance throughout the campaign. A remarkable aspect of this success was the squad's depth, with 22 students from Years 11, 12, and 13 contributing to the triumph, demonstrating strong unity and collaboration across year groups. The coaching staff praised the players' adaptability and competitive spirit, which were key to overcoming tightly contested matches.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNDER 15 1ST XI AS THEY CLINCH EALING LEAGUE DIVISION 1 TITLE

The Drayton Manor High School U15 1st XI wrapped up a memorable season by claiming the Ealing League Division 1 title in impressive style. The team demonstrated remarkable resilience, bouncing back to finish the season with an unbeaten run of five games. This incredible turnaround secured the title by a margin of over six points, showcasing the squad's determination and fighting spirit. The coaching staff praised the players for their ability to regroup after setbacks, reflecting both maturity and ambition.

CREATIVITY SHINES AT THE EALING BOOK FESTIVAL



In an inspiring collaboration between the Art and English departments, nine talented Drayton Manor students from Years 7 and 8 were honoured for their outstanding illustrations and poetry at the 2025 Ealing Book Festival Contest. The winners attended a prestigious prize-giving ceremony at Pitzhanger Manor Gallery, where they met the Mayor of Ealing, Councillor Yvonne Johnson, and received a bag of prizes and book tokens. The judges praised the high standard of the entries, commending their creativity, skill, and uniqueness. Congratulations to Samar, Aaradhya, Natalie S, Wesley, Alex G, Maryam, Kento, Bianca, and Alys for their remarkable achievements!

ONCE A DRAYTONIAN ALWAYS A DRAYTONIAN: FAREWELL TO THE CLASS OF 2025



On a beautiful 23 of May, Drayton Manor High School came together to celebrate and say goodbye to our incredible Year 11 and Year 13 students. The day was a heartfelt mix of celebration and reflection, marking the end of a significant chapter in their school lives. The festivities began with a warm gathering in the dining hall, where students enjoyed a celebratory spread and shared laughter, memories, and well-wishes. One of the most touching traditions, signing each other's shirts, turned school uniforms into treasured keepsakes filled with personal messages and moments to remember. As they now look ahead to exciting new paths, we send the Class of 2025 off with pride, gratitude, and our very best wishes for the future.



YEAR 7 TAKES ON THE CAREERS DAY ECO-CHALLENGE



Our Year 7 students participated in the nationwide Careers Day Eco-Challenge, a dynamic event in collaboration with Air Products and the Inspirational Learning Group. Tasked with designing a sustainable city powered by environmentally friendly gases, students showcased creativity and teamwork while working in the Drama Studio and Main Hall. Guided by enthusiastic facilitators, teams incorporated innovative gas solutions—like hydrogen—into their futuristic city designs. The day concluded with



presentations that highlighted imaginative ideas and practical solutions, leaving everyone inspired.

CULTURE DAY: A CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY



We celebrated Culture Day with an incredible line-up of activities in the Main Hall. Students and staff came together to experience a vibrant showcase of global cultures, immersing themselves in Kabaddi matches, global food tastings, mindfulness sessions, and quizzes. Organised with enthusiasm and creativity by both students and staff, the event was a resounding success, fostering a deeper appreciation for cultural diversity within our community. The joyful atmosphere and uplifting performances left many with lasting memories. Thank you to our students who helped to coordinate this event!

INSPIRING INSIGHTS FROM CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSIONALS



Our Year 12 students recently had the opportunity to learn from two trainee Clinical Psychologists, Ravina Rao and Mory Kakar, who visited to share their career journeys and experiences in the field of Clinical Psychology. Mory Kakar, a Drayton Manor alumnus, offered a particularly motivating perspective on transitioning from Sixth Form to postgraduate training. During the engaging session, students gained valuable insights into

the academic and professional pathways into psychology, including university courses, work experience, and postgraduate qualifications. The speakers highlighted the diverse roles psychology can play in mental health services, research, and applied practice while offering practical tips on gaining relevant experience and staying motivated. The talk left students inspired and better prepared to explore a future in the field.

YEAR 12 GAIN INSIGHT INTO MEDICINE AND NURSING PATHWAYS



We were delighted to welcome back Renaye Roberts-Sinclair from the University of Exeter, who gave an inspiring and informative talk to our Year 12 students about alternative routes to Medicine, the MMI (Multiple Mini Interviews) process, and careers in Nursing. The session covered key topics, including the healthcare learning environment, entry pathways into Medicine, and an overview of the Medicine programme. Renaye guided students through the application process, offering valuable advice on the UCAT and tips for succeeding in MMIs. Students left the session with a clearer understanding of how to approach their applications and explore various healthcare careers. The talk proved to be an invaluable resource for those considering a future in Medicine or Nursing.

ALUMNUS CHRISTOPHER BOARD INSPIRES WITH TALK ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

By Year 12 Student Reporter Emily



We were thrilled to welcome back Christopher Board, a Drayton Manor alumnus,

who recently spoke to our students about his career journey in International Development and Sustainability. Christopher shared valuable insights into his academic and professional path, discussing the experiences and choices that shaped his career. He also provided an overview of his current work, highlighting the global challenges his team is tackling and the strategies they employ to make a positive impact. Students found the session both inspiring and informative, gaining practical advice on pursuing a career dedicated to global change and sustainability.

YEAR 12 STUDENTS EXPERIENCE LIFE AT OXFORD



A group of Year 12 students had the exciting opportunity to visit St John's College, Oxford. The visit began with the Oxford Explained presentation, offering an introduction to the University, its unique collegiate system, and the diverse range of courses available. Students enjoyed a guided tour of the college, led by current students, and participate in a Q&A session to gain first-hand insights into academic life and student experiences at Oxford. In the afternoon, they took part in an Admissions and Interviews Workshop, where they explored the Oxford admissions process and tackled interactive challenges based on real interview questions. This enriching experience helped build confidence and equipped students with valuable knowledge about applying to top universities.

YEAR 9 EXPLORE GERMAN CULTURE AT THE GOETHE INSTITUTE

The Year 9 German students visited the Goethe Institute in South Kensington—a hub for German language and culture. The day was filled with engaging workshops celebrating the fall of the Berlin Wall, a film screening and discussion in the Institute's cinema, a lively library challenge, and German conversation inspired by a unique art installation. Students also attended a presentation on the benefits of learning German for future studies and careers. The Institute staff praised the students for their enthusiasm and ambitious ideas, highlighting their willingness to practice speaking German throughout the visit. It was an inspiring and educational day



that deepened students' appreciation for German culture.



THRILLING SEASON FINALE FOR DRAYTON MANOR'S UNDER-18 FOOTBALL SQUADS



In an action-packed season finale at Saint Benedict's Private School, our Under-18 teams displayed remarkable grit despite narrow defeats across all three starting elevens. The First XI kicked off the day with a dramatic 4 to 3 losses showcasing attacking flair and determination as they clawed back from an early two-goal deficit, only to be edged out by two late Saint Benedict's strikes. Though the results did not favour Drayton Manor, the teams demonstrated technical skill, teamwork, and a never-give-up attitude, reflecting their potential for future success.

YEAR 7 KICK OFF FOOTBALL TRAINING WITH GREENFORD TOWN FC

This summer term, a group of talented Year 7 boys have been selected to participate in football training sessions with Greenford Town Football Club. These sessions provide an exciting opportunity for students to enhance their technical skills on the pitch while also fostering vital life skills such as teamwork, collaboration, and effective communication. By challenging themselves and working closely with their peers, the students embody our

school values of character and ambition. This partnership not only develops their sporting abilities but also encourages personal growth, both in football and beyond.

FOOTBALL SUCCESS AND UPCOMING FINALS

A huge congratulations to all the students who were selected to represent Drayton Manor in the Borough League and Cup competitions this season! Your dedication and hard work have truly shone through. As we wrap up a fantastic season, we are looking forward to two exciting league finals taking place this half term. The Under 15 1st XI League Division 1 final against Twyford High School and the Under 14 Girls League final against William Perkin. We wish both teams the best of luck, and we will be sharing the results in the next newsletter!

DRAYTON MANOR ATHLETES SHINE AT THE TCS MINI MARATHON

On Saturday 26 April, four talented athletes from Drayton Manor High School represented Ealing Borough at the TCS Mini London Marathon Championships Borough Challenge. Competing in the prestigious 2.6km race, which brings together the UK's most promising young runners. Our students delivered remarkable performances. Congratulations to Naimah (Under 17 Girls), who placed 34th out of 109 participants, Megan (Under 13 Girls) who came 89th out of 162 participants, Owen (Under 13 Boys) who secured an impressive 16th out of 176 participants, and Dante (Under 17 Boys) who finished 88th out of 140 participants. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and their dedication to the sport.

CRICKET SEASON BEGINS AT DRAYTON MANOR

With the start of the new term, club training for our enthusiastic cricketers is in full swing at the school playing fields. The Under 13 and Under 15 teams are gearing up for their first matches of the season against William Perkin scheduled for 12 June and 16 June, respectively. The players have shown great commitment during training, and we are confident they will put on a strong performance. Good luck to both teams as they kick off their cricket season!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We would like to wish all our students and their families a wonderful half term break! We will be back with more updates and activities in the Summer Term.

See you on Monday, 2 June.

EVENTS FOR THE SUMMER TERM

Monday 16 June
Year 12 UCAS Exams Begin

Tuesday 17 June
Parent Event

Wednesday 18 June
End of Public Exams

Friday 20 June
Student Leadership Conference

Monday 23 June
Year 6 Induction Meetings

Friday 27 June
Year 6 Induction Day

Tuesday 8 July
School Musical Production

Wednesday 16 July
Drayfest 2025

END OF TERM
Tuesday 22 July

Please find the latest Parent and Carer Bulletin [here](#).

