



### BACK TO LIFE, BACK TO REALITY

Although not back to normality just yet we are beginning to see glimmers of what life was like at Drayton Manor High School before the pandemic with the return of many anticipated events including Sports Day, Fun Day and some competitive sporting competitions with other schools in the Borough. As a result, there is a definite new spring in the steps of our students!

### ETHIC OF EXCELLENCE AND THE SPIRIT OF ENDEAVOUR AWARD



In June we hosted the final Ethic of Excellence Award ceremonies of the academic year. Students receive the award for a variety of reasons which include sustained excellence in a subject, a one-off outstanding piece of work, major improvement in school work and for contributing to the school community. Students are presented with a certificate by Ms Mills who chats to each student individually about their achievements. The presentations are followed by a delicious brunch including pizza, fresh fruit and cookies.



This term also saw the launch of a new exciting award called The Spirit of Endeavour Award. We understand that students can be



at different stages of their educational journey so we wanted to implement something that would recognise the perseverance and determination of those students who are either putting in extra effort into an area of their schooling or have really tried to turn things around in terms of the three core pillars of the School's Ethos – Ambition, Character and Civic Virtue. As with the Ethic of Excellence Award, students were presented with a certificate by Ms Mills and which was followed by a breakfast served in the Dining Hall. We look forward to hosting more of these Ethic of Excellence and Spirit of Endeavour Awards ceremonies in the next academic year.

### OLIVE ACTIVITIES

Throughout the pandemic the school caterers, Olive Dining, have continued to produce delicious and healthy food for both students and staff.



Recently, the students on the Year Council met with Olive Dining staff to sample new dishes for the Autumn term menu. Students had the opportunity to taste a variety of different dishes from sushi and corn ribs to Piri Piri roasted vegetables and Biscoff and Strawberry cheesecake before providing feedback on the tasting menu. We look forward to seeing the new menu in place from September.



Olive Dining also led a planting workshop with our Year 7 tutor representatives who planted a variety of herbs and vegetables in new flower beds that we have installed on the piazza. The students were taught what to plant and how to look after a vegetable patch. We look forward to seeing how these vegetables and herbs have grown once school starts again in September and hope that it won't be long before we see them incorporated in some of the dishes produced.





### FUN DAYS



In previous years, we have held a 'Fun Day' for Year 8 but took the decision this year to roll it out to Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. The event involves students participating in numerous games and activities at the school Games field, with the aim of earning House points, fostering team spirit and a sense of friendly competition. There was also a complimentary burger, crepe and lemonade stand for an extra fun factor!



In advance of the event, in order to promote a sense of belonging and being a part of something, students decided on a House colour outfit theme within their Tutor Group. We also held a House banner design competition and House Captains brought these ideas to life on large pieces of canvas, with help of Year 12 Art students. Furthermore,



approximately 30 Year 12 volunteers gave up their free time to help run the event,

role modelling to the younger students and refereeing at the field.

### ARTS SUMMER SHOWCASE

Usually at this time of year we would be inviting parents to the school to celebrate the wonderful creative achievements of our students in the Arts Summer Showcase. This year we have created a virtual experience which highlights the incredible talents and effort of our young musicians and artists including our Draytons Got Talent winners. Please [click here](#) and enjoy.

### XINGCHEN



In March, Xingchen (9I) participated in the UKMT Cayley Maths Olympiad 2021. The Cayley Mathematical Olympiad is a follow-on round to the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge. It is a two-hour challenge consisting of six problems requiring full written solutions. The UKMT only invite around 600 qualifying students from the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge to take part in the Cayley Mathematical Olympiad. Only the highest-scoring participants each receive Certificates of Distinction and Merit. We are very pleased to announce that as a result of his fantastic performance, Xingchen achieved a certificate of Merit. The school is incredibly proud of him and his work ethic in doing his very best is highly commendable.

### ASPIRE PROGRAMME



Year 7 students in the Aspire programme took part in a balloon debate, arguing why the individual they had chosen should stay in the balloon. Students have spent the last half term researching the impact of a range of figures, all the way from Alfred the Great to Greta Thunberg! The students prepared and delivered

presentations in small groups. In an exciting final vote, the printing press pioneer Johannes Gutenberg, was voted out of the balloon. The judges (Ms Greenwood and Mr Foxall) were very impressed with the presentations which were informative and entertaining. All students should be very proud of the work they put into these projects. The following prizes were awarded:

- Best delivery: Ahmed, Abdul, Alfie
- Best asking and responding to questions: Thomas
- Best team effort: Mabel and Ruhi
- Best overall presentation: Parisa

### AMBASSADORS' BREAKFAST

In the penultimate week of term, the school hosted a celebratory breakfast as a thank you for all the wonderful work our Well-Being Ambassadors, School Council reps and Digital Ambassadors have done throughout the school year. During the breakfast they also had the opportunity to contribute to our new Student Charter. This was followed by an interesting and enlightening presentation by our Digital Ambassadors on screen time and how technology usage varies across year groups. We look forward to sharing these findings across the school when we return in September.



### THANK YOU DAY

Thank You Day was an opportunity for students to thank a friend, teacher or family member and was a great way of spreading gratitude - a chance we don't often get. Notes were distributed by students who remarked on how such a simple act brought so much happiness as they watched their peers open their letters. Thank you letters to family members will be sent out during the forthcoming weeks.



### WELCOME YEAR 6!

We were very pleased that, unlike last year, we were able to welcome a number of Year 6 children who will be joining the school in September to a taster afternoon.



This was an opportunity for them to get just a snippet of what it is like to be a student at Drayton Manor. The children were met by our Transition Team who remembered only too well what it was like when they first entered through the doors of the school for the very first time.



The afternoon started with an assembly which set out expectations and this was followed by some musical performances and then speeches from some of our House Captains and Well-Being Ambassadors along with those from our current Year 7 cohort. The children then took part in a Geography lesson in the School Hall before heading off for a tour of the school which ended in the Dining Hall where they all enjoyed cookies and juice.

We were disappointed that some of our Year 6 students were not able to attend due to their bubbles being required to isolate, but we have planned for extra time to support our new Year 7 students and look forward to welcoming everyone.

### SIXTH FORM INDUCTION DAYS

On Monday 5 July, approximately 150 of our current Year 11 students attended their Sixth Form Induction Day. The day started with breakfast and an assembly where they were addressed by Ms Yates, Ms Hundal and

Mr Foxall on what to expect as a sixth form student and the support available when applying for university, apprenticeships, and career options. The students then attended a taster lesson for one of their chosen subjects. Following this, all students took part in a fantastic marketing challenge led by The Inspirational Learning Group. The aim was to come up with an idea for a new business which solved a problem but also gave back to the community in some way. There was a buzz in the air as students created exciting and dynamic pitches, made up of social media campaigns, press releases and even a rap! One group was chosen as the winner and their idea was submitted as part of the national competition. We are really looking forward to welcoming our students back as sixth form students in September.

On Tuesday 6 July we were joined by a number of external candidates from other schools who will be joining the Sixth Form in September. They enjoyed a breakfast before attending their first Drayton Manor Assembly. Following this they had a taste of what a Sixth Form lesson at our school would be like. We looking forward to welcoming them back at the start of the next academic year.

### SIXTH FORM NEWS

#### UCAS DAY

Year 12 students embarked on the long process of preparing for university applications with the annual UCAS Day on 7 July. Through a series of talks from experts at universities across the country, students had the opportunity to find out more about everything to do with the university application process, writing personal statements, and student finance. Each student also participated in a tailored programme of workshops covering scenarios such as applying to Oxford and Cambridge, apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships, gap years, and many more. We were particularly pleased to welcome back a number of former Drayton Manor



students to talk to our students, including Anup Debnath, who this year



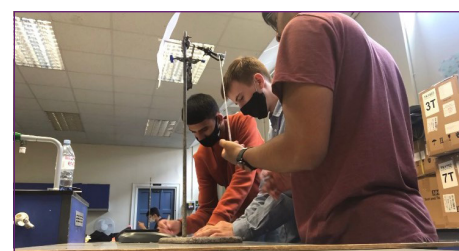
has begun a degree at the University of Cambridge, and former Head Girl Maryam Khan, who took time out of her busy schedule working for Bloomberg to talk to students about the competitive degree apprenticeship she won a place on. We are extremely thankful to all speakers for their participation.

### UCAS PARENTS' EVENING

To follow on from the Year 12 UCAS Day, the school hosted an information evening for parents to help sixth form students take their next steps in confidence. Speakers presented on the topic of the benefits of university, the possibilities of degree apprenticeships (which are proving more popular than ever amongst our students) and student finance. Ms Yates, Mr Kataria and Mr Foxall also detailed the means by which the sixth form team support students as they go through this complex process.

### IMPERIAL SUMMER SCHOOL

Students in Year 12 have been getting a taste of university life this week after being selected to participate in a Physics summer school organised by ex-Draytonian Alex Richards, an Imperial researcher. They attended lectures about simple harmonic motion, carried out their own experiments earlier in the week and have learnt how to code their data on Python - despite never having coded before. We have also been fortunate enough to be joined by current fourth year student Sachin Gupta, who has been guiding our students through the first year undergraduate coding course.



Students got the opportunity to present their data to other researchers at Imperial and they were left very impressed! Well done on a fantastic week for all involved.



**MEDICINE NEWS**

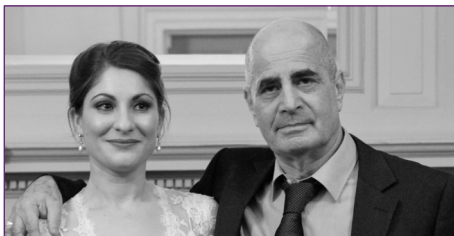
We were very privileged to have the following Doctors and Medical students talk to our Medicine and Dentistry Enrichment students this term.

- **Dr S Mehta**, Consultant Gastroenterologist at University College Hospital, London.
  - **Dr Sacha-Porter Bent**, Senior Registrar Cardiologist at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham
  - **Dr Amy Boalch**, FY2 in A&E at St Thomas' Hospital, London.
  - **Dr. Chenduraan Kailayapillai**, FY2 at Northampton General Hospital and Foundation Fellow at the Royal College of Psychiatry
  - **Miss Greta Gellar**, third year Medical students at Cambridge University
  - **Mr Baker Lubwama**, third year Medical student at Cambridge University
- Students were able to ask questions about various topics such as UKCAT and BMAT exam preparation, the workload involved and what motivated them to pursue a career in medicine. Due to its success we also had another MS Teams online talk for our Year 9 and 10 most able students. The feedback has been very positive so far and we look forward to hosting more STEM professionals in the new academic year.

**INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKERS**

In July, Drayton Manor welcomed back four Alumni to inspire our Year 10 and Year 12 cohorts. Simrit and Esher Chagger and Ali Karmanjy all attended Drayton Manor Sixth form and are now at the world famous London School of Economics and Politics. Ailsa Bajrami achieved outstanding GCSEs and A Levels. The Alumni spoke about the importance of hard work, early revision and focus as well as filling the students with self-confidence to know that they can improve on disappointing grades if they act quickly and ensure they use the support available to them. The Alumni gave a range of useful strategies and many Year 10 and 12 students commented on how inspired they were by them. We hope to run more inspirational talks delivered by our alumni next year.

**SHIMON LEVISON**



During his 32 years at Drayton Manor, Mr Levison made a huge difference to the lives of thousands of our students. He was incredibly well respected by staff, students and our families as a subject expert, but also for the considerable time and energy he gave to helping our students to achieve at the highest possible standard and to be at their very best. The esteem in which he is held by our families is testimony to a lifetime of extraordinary work with young people.

The news of his passing was obviously very upsetting for our staff, students and those who worked with and knew him which is why we opened a Book of Condolence so that thoughts, feelings and memories could be shared. This can now be viewed on our website by [clicking here](#) and we hope that it will bring comfort to many.

Mr Levison was a true Draytonian displaying Ambition, Character and Civic Virue in everything he did. He will be missed enormously.

**SPORTS REPORT**

Little did we know when we returned in September that our students would not be able to start any extra-curricular activities until late March, but start they did and we were able to have a number of Inter House events before the Easter break. It was so nice to see the excitement of students competing in their favourite activities as we were able to start introducing clubs for individual year groups to work within the school's bubble requirements. Despite the difficulties we have managed to offer students Inter House competitions across the year groups in basketball, dodgeball, fitness, netball, football and cricket.



In addition, we have had individual year group Sports Days during which, for the first time ever, we introduced the Drayton Manor Mile. This event was added to the timetable so that every student in each year group could play a part in representing their House in a sporting activity and was well received by our students. All of the Sports Day activities were watched over by our new school mascot who made his inaugural appearance at the Year 10 sports Day. More Mascot news to follow!



We have had an additional focus on fitness for students this term as many of them have suffered with a lack of activity over recent months and it was rewarding to see a number of our year 7s take part in our Inter House fitness which was forced inside during one of the many heavy rain downpours we have experienced this year.

The boys and girls competed in Inter House football events with both being very well attended. A number of the events enabled Houses to field both A and B teams for the competitions. All the results were tallied and added to the overall House table leading to the award of the Champion House Shield at the end of the year.

Once the Inter House events had got under way we started our Year 7 practice and we were inundated with keen netballers. The girls have continued to attend club regularly since Easter and have improved immensely. They were extremely excited to be able to play their first Inter School fixture at home against William Perkin with places in the A & B squads being hotly contested.

With the teams selected and final practises finished the day came for the matches. Both teams certainly looked the part and played exceptionally well coming away with convincing victories in both matches, the A team winning 9 goals to 2 and the B team 7 goals to 1. Player of the match awards were decided by the opposing teams and went to Hermione from the A team and Mabel from the B team.



The Year 10 students were also keen to get involved and had the opportunity to play in an Inter School Rounders tournament hosted by Ellen Wilkinson.

Again the girls were focussed in practise sessions in their games lessons and when it came to a team selection evening there were plenty of willing and able players to choose from. The squad of twelve performed exceptionally well, outclassing their opposition in both batting and fielding. The final match came down to us having to beat our constant rivals Twyford and the girls again focussed on all the important elements of the game gaining victory with 6.5 rounders to 1.5



HOUSE NEWS



Phoenix



Caladrius



Griffin



Pegasus

June and July have seen students able to ramp up their involvement in House events. House Captains have supported in the development and running of Fun days and Sports days as the PE department have run a whole host of inter-House sports competitions.

In order to build towards winning the end of term House trophy, points are considered from the following areas of the school

- Student merits/positive comment slips
- Results from competitions
- Results from Sports and Fun day
- House Attendance

We can announce that the winning house this year is... Caladrius! There will be further details on house trophy and celebrations upon our return in September.

Overall end of year House trophy

- 1st – Caladrius - 1440
- 2nd – Griffin - 1270
- 3rd – Pegasus - 1170
- 4th – Phoenix - 1070

NAMING OF MASCOT - MEET PHOELIX

If you remember, last term we were very excited to share news about a new recruit joining the team at the school whose special area of responsibility would be to have fun. Our new recruit has already been making special appearances at our fun days and sports days and this week we finally found a name which we think is very appropriate – Meet Phoelix the Phoenix! We would like to thank all our students who took part in the voting and for coming up with the perfect name.



AND FINALLY...

We would like to thank you all for all your messages of support that we have received over the past year while we have adapted to teaching during a pandemic. We are finally seeing a glimpse of what Drayton Manor used to be like, and although it may take a little more time, we will get there in the end. As our school motto sums up so perfectly – Nec Aspere Terrent – Hardships Do Not Deter us. Have a wonderful summer and see you in September!

START OF AUTUMN TERM 2021



Date	Year Group	Arrival Time
Thursday 2 September	7 12	11.20-11.30am 1.20-1.30pm
Friday 3 September	11 13 8	8.45-8.55am 10.00-10.10am 11.50-12.00pm
Monday 6 September	9 10	8.45-55am 10.00-10.10am

