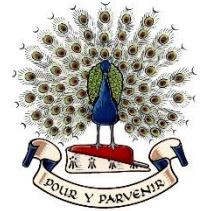


Lady Manners School



Christmas Newsletter 2021

As we look forward to Christmas, I would like to take this opportunity to thank both students and staff for their hard work and resilience during the term. This continues to be a very challenging period and significant modifications have been made. All members of our school community have dealt with unique situations and have embedded new ways of working.

COVID-19 AND TESTING

We remain vigilant in our approach to dealing with the ongoing pandemic and our current positive cases remain extremely low (less than 1% of the school population). However, we are very aware of recent announcements regarding the Omicron variant. We envisage that our existing control measures will continue next term and we thank you again for your support in ensuring our students adhere to school guidelines.

In line with government advice, we will be testing all students on their return to school. Further information will follow in an email next week.

We are hearing mixed messages regarding the new variant and its potential impact on schools. We all hope that we do not face another period of lockdown and currently do not expect this to happen. However, to ensure we are prepared for all possible eventualities, please ensure your child has access to technology to support learning from home if necessary. In the event of a future school closure, we will email further information regarding remote live lessons which would be delivered in line with student timetables. If any student or family anticipates possible technological or accessibility issues regarding home learning, please contact the school as soon as possible.

EVENTS

Throughout the term we have continued to adapt to the pandemic and we have been determined to return to a more recognisable way of school life. We have, however, retained many Covid-related control measures to ensure the safety of our school community.

We have tried to run as many activities as possible in line with the school calendar and we have been delighted with the response of students and staff in ensuring that the term has run smoothly.

Our virtual parents' evenings continue to be well-received by the vast majority of parents and carers. On-line discussions have been effective in providing useful information in a concise and targeted manner. We held our Remembrance Assembly virtually again this year and enjoyed a live service of Nine Lessons and Carols at Bakewell Church last week.

Our Performing Arts Faculty has been very busy this term organising an excellent School Production and a fabulous Christmas Concert. The drama production this year was a non-musical adaptation of 'A Christmas Carol'. It always impresses me how students from across all year groups (7 to 13) interact so positively during these events and learn so much from each other. The Christmas Concert provided an opportunity for our students to

showcase their exceptional musical talents and the success of the event reflected hours of practice sessions and rehearsals. Thank you to all involved in these outstanding events.

Our extra-curricular sporting provision remains strong and our school teams continue to impress in inter-school fixtures. House events have also offered opportunities for students of all abilities to compete and acquire points for their respective houses (Barker, Cockerton, Glossop and Taylor).

OPEN EVENINGS

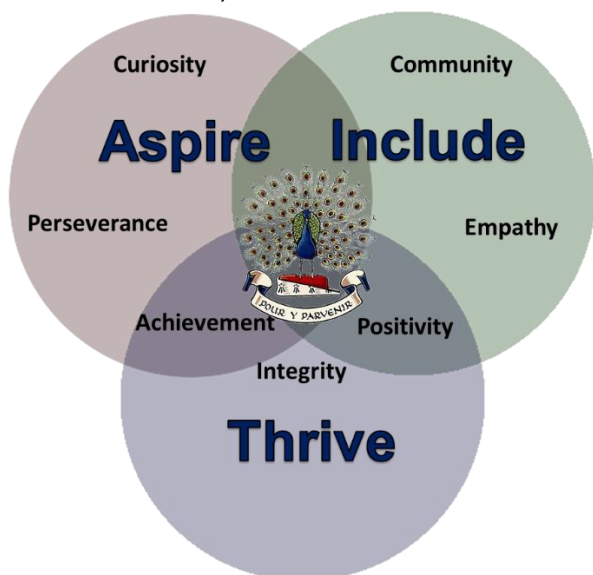
Following on from a highly successful Year 6 Information Evening, we were delighted that so many students and parents and carers attended our Sixth Form Open Evening. Feedback has been positive and we are looking forward to welcoming large numbers of students to our Sixth Form next September. We are proud to offer a wide range of post-16 courses, and believe the varied mix of A Level and vocational courses caters for a wide spectrum of talents and interests.

ADAPTED EXAMS

Students in Year 11 have recently taken mock examinations and we have been pleased with the high levels of commitment shown in preparation for the summer. Year 13 mocks will take place after Christmas. Although it is intended that all students will sit public examinations in 2022, these will be adapted to take account of the disruption to learning over the past couple of years. We are awaiting the publication of advance materials which are due to be released on 07 February 2022. Further information will follow in the New Year.

VISION AND VALUES

During the term we re-visited our school vision and values. This process began on our first CPD day in September and involved a range of stakeholders, including staff, governors and students. Following extensive feedback, ten values were agreed which were believed to best represent our school, including a core set of three values ('Aspire, Include, Thrive').



We have also created an updated vision statement, along with a new mission statement. These will be on our website shortly.

Students and staff have worked hard to make this a successful term. This includes our Year 13 School Officers who have supported a number of important events this term and

have been fully immersed in the life of the school. Their contributions have been extremely helpful and their passion for our school is clearly evident. Well done to all!

We look forward to school re-opening again on **Tuesday 11 January 2022** following a staff training day on Monday 10 January 2022.

In the meantime, we wish you an enjoyable, relaxing and safe festive season.

G Peat
Headteacher