

Lady Manners School

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 2 Autumn Term 2022

Welcome to our Christmas newsletter.

As we approach the end of an enjoyable term, I would like to reflect on some of the excellent achievements of our students and staff.

Events and Extra-Curricular

First of all, congratulations to all students who participated in our School Production this year - 'Chicago'. Performances over three evenings were exceptional, showcasing the outstanding talents of our students, and the accompanying music added to the high quality of the production. Thank you to all staff and students involved in the show, including backstage crew members. The many hours spent in rehearsals certainly paid off! Congratulations also to all students who took part in our Christmas Concert. This, too, was a hugely impressive and enjoyable occasion.



Many events are held during this first term of the academic year. Our Remembrance Service was a moving occasion which culminated in the laying of a wreath at the entrance of the Cavendish Library. As is customary, we told the story of a former Lady Manners student who lost his life during World War 1. This year, we remembered John Horsfield who was killed in action in Belgium.

We have held a number of parents' evenings this term, including for students in Year 11, Year 13 and Year 9. We continue to operate these events remotely and feedback suggests this a far more efficient and productive way of delivering key information. We also held our Sixth Form Information Evening recently and we are extremely pleased with the number of students who intend to remain at Lady Manners School beyond Year 11, and also with the number of external students who have expressed an interest in joining us from next September. A reminder that applications to join our Sixth Form are now available online.

Sporting successes have continued throughout the term across a range of activities. Congratulations to all students who have represented the school with distinction, both in individual sports and in team competitions.

A special mention for our very own Mr Haworth who represented Great Britain in the World Mountain

Running Championships in Thailand. He ran a time of 58 minutes and finished in 31st place - an outstanding achievement.

School Officers

Our Sixth Form Officers are playing an active role in the life of the school. We have extended our core team to include nine officers this year (see photograph below), and have been impressed with the drive and determination they have shown in their roles.



We will be introducing a prefect system for Year 12 students after Christmas to support the work of our School Officers. Prefects will help in different areas of the school and will undertake a number of supervisory duties.

Primary School Visits

I have visited a number of local primary schools throughout the term and it has been interesting to observe the contrasting school environments and different ways of working. During my visits, I was particularly impressed with the engagement of children in lessons (from reception age to Year 6) and the varied range of activities taking place.

Feedback about our partnership with primary schools has been extremely positive. Our feeder schools are appreciative of the transition work that takes place each year and of the support that is provided in ensuring students make a smooth transition into secondary education.

Attendance and Interventions

Attendance remains a key priority for the school, particularly when taking into consideration the disruption caused by the pandemic. As we move beyond the Covid era, attendance is improving, although still below our target of 95%. Regular attendance and good punctuality directly correlates to a child's learning and achievement at school and to subsequent future success. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of high attendance on your child's education.

We remain committed to a tailored approach to ensure our students are not disadvantaged by missed periods of learning. Catch-up work is continuing and we have retained targeted interventions to ensure the impact of the pandemic on the education of our students is minimised. The work of our learning mentors in core subjects is benefiting students from all year groups and tutoring sessions have been offered in Year 11. We were delighted to appoint an English Tutor recently who will be supporting our 17 Ukrainian students.

Results and Mock Examinations

Following the publication of national data for all schools, our provisional Progress 8 score has been confirmed as +0.26, which is our highest ever score. Attainment is also significantly higher than county and national averages as students continue to perform well across a broad range of subjects, including mathematics and English.

Our current Year 11 students have been busy completing their mock examinations over the last couple of weeks. As examination papers and individual questions are reviewed, it will be important for students to

identify gaps in their learning and to use this information to prepare for their formal summer examinations.

Good luck to our Year 13 students who will be taking their mocks examinations after the Christmas break.

Standards of Uniform

The vast majority of our students continue to wear their uniform with pride and in line with our well-established uniform policy. Our uniform is a distinctive feature of Lady Manners School and this is something that is clearly identifiable within and beyond our local community. We often receive positive comments from members of the public about our students, who praise them on how smart they look and how well they represent our school.

Unfortunately, a very small number of students have recently not been meeting our very high uniform standards. A reminder that it is not acceptable for students to wear incorrect uniform, and students across all age groups, including the Sixth Form, will continue to be challenged about this by form tutors and the wider staff.

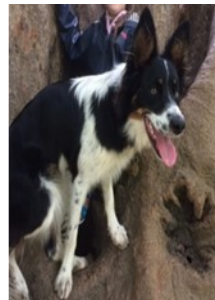
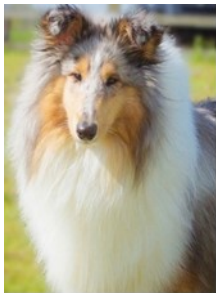
Your support in upholding our high standards is appreciated. The school will facilitate parents and carers in accessing correct uniform and will, where appropriate, supply items of uniform on either a short-term or permanent basis.

Environmental Project

Students recently entered an environmental competition which involved writing an essay on climate change. The winning entry was completed by Rowan Meetham - congratulations to her on this outstanding achievement. Through the essays, a series of potential projects have been suggested to raise environmental awareness and to improve our school site. This year, students have decided to focus on a lighting replacement scheme and improvements will now be made across the school. Well done to all students who entered the competition.

Dog Therapy

We will soon be introducing some new members to the Lady Manners team who we hope will become an integral part of our school community: Skye, a 3-year old Rough Collie, Lara, a 7-year old Cockapoo, and Willow, a 7-year old Border Collie.



All dogs are therapy dogs and they will come into school on a rotational basis, staying for a maximum of two hours on each visit to work with a small number of our students.

School Closure (Thursday 8 December)

Thank you to all parents and carers for your understanding during our recent enforced school closure. A contractor (not linked to the school) burst a water mains pipe whilst working on a field near the end of Shutts Lane. This meant that there was no water supply to the school and classrooms could not be heated. Additionally, there were no toilet facilities and no means of providing hot food.

When we were made aware of the incident, messages were immediately communicated to our school community, including the school website, email messages, social media and Moodle. Following a review of the incident, we will now be investigating the potential use of a text messaging service to send important notifications directly to mobile phones.

Apologies again for any inconvenience caused by this unexpected event.

Staffing News

We say goodbye to two teachers at Christmas who will be leaving to take up posts at other schools. Mr Tattersall will be taking up the post of Head of Science at Sheffield Park Academy and Ms Thompson will be joining Marple School in Stockport as Curriculum Leader of Computing and Business. We wish them both every success in their new roles.

Looking Ahead to Next Term

Following the Christmas break we will be holding a staff training day before students from all year groups return to school on Tuesday 10 January 2023. In the meantime, I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable festive break.

Mr Peat
Headteacher
Lady Manners School
December 2022

