



# Lady Manners School

## Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 3 Spring Term 2023

Welcome to our Spring newsletter.

A number of important events have taken place this term, and once again I have been impressed by the commitment demonstrated by our students and staff.

### **Prefect System**

A new prefect system was introduced at the beginning of term, and fifty Year 12 students are now carrying out a diverse selection of roles to support our younger students, including a range of lunchtime duties. A number of our prefects recently delivered assemblies to younger year groups which focussed on online safety. These were informative, highly relevant and expertly-delivered. Leading assemblies can be a daunting task for even the most confident of presenters, and our prefects should be congratulated for delivering this important safety information.

### **Examinations And Revision**

Vocational subject examinations have now been completed by students. Amongst others, these included units in IT, Engineering, Sport and Physical Activity, Health and Social Care and Applied Business. The Year 13 mock examinations also provided an excellent opportunity for students to identify gaps in learning which can now be targeted in class and within independent revision programmes. We wish all our students well as they approach their final examinations in the summer.

Year 11 students have been working hard as they prepare for their summer examinations. Mock examinations have been analysed and specific subject improvement areas have been identified. Based on the feedback received, students should now aim to develop personalised revision programmes to accompany the range of support programmes offered in school.

This is an important time for our students who are due to sit public examinations in the summer. We will endeavour to support each individual child and, as parents and carers, your role will be significant in ensuring students perform to the best of their ability. Thank you in advance for your support. Please feel free to contact the school should you require any specific advice regarding the forthcoming examinations.

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our recent Year 11 'Thrive for Success' evening. This event was organised by two of our Directors of Learning, Mr Doody and Mrs Scott, and provided a platform for students to develop their revision strategies in preparation for the forthcoming summer examinations.

### **Year 9 Options**

Students in Year 9 have been making important choices as they select their preferred courses to study from September. Throughout this term students have been investigating the content of key stage four qualifications to enable them to make informed option choices.

The Year 9 options information evening was well-attended and provided an opportunity for parents, carers and students to receive bespoke information from subject specialist teachers about potential courses to study in Year 10. More detailed information can be found in the Year 9 options prospectus, including descriptions of vocational qualification options.

## **Year 7**

Year 7 students continue to thrive and are now fully integrated into all aspects of school life. This smooth transition from primary school was undoubtedly facilitated by our extensive transition programmes. Last year, we welcomed students from over fifty different primary schools and many new friendships have been created since the start of the academic year. All Year 7 classes have been enthusiastically collecting house points since their arrival at Lady Manners and we look forward to the announcement of our final house results at the end of the summer term.

## **Sporting Success**

I continue to be hugely impressed by the achievements of our students across a variety of sports. We have a number of elite performers at our school who have excelled in their respective sports over many years. In this newsletter, I would like to congratulate our talented skier Tommy Agutter who recently won the U18 Giant Slalom category at the Welsh Championships in Champery, Switzerland. Well done, Tommy - a fantastic achievement!



Congratulations also to Caitlin McCloy who represented Rotherham Harriers in the National Indoor Athletics Championships at the English Institute of Sport. She competed in the U17 800m, finishing first to become national champion, in a time that puts her first in the national rankings for her age.

I am aware that a number of our talented students are rather modest and do not particularly like to promote their own successes. The school takes great pride in the success of our extra-curricular programmes and I would encourage students across all year groups to keep us fully informed of their out-of-school achievements. We are genuinely delighted to hear from you!

## **Foreign Languages ('Spelling Bee')**

Following our success as a school last year, with one student reaching the national finals, our Year 7 students have once again been taking part in our foreign language 'spelling bee' competition. The whole year group took part in round one, which involved learning fifty words in the language they are studying and spelling these out in the alphabet of the language they are studying as a class competition. Winners from each form went through to the second round and school final, which took place on Tuesday, 14 February. Our school winners will now go on to the regional finals next term. Well done to all of Year 7 for engaging with this competition so enthusiastically, and especially to our winners.

The competition has also moved into Year 8, with students in this year group taking part in a 'translation bee'. These students are given a number of words to learn that they then have to use to translate as many sentences as they can in one minute! There is intense (but friendly) rivalry among our Year 8 students and we are looking forward to the next round of this competition after half-term.

## **Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA)**

We are fortunate to have an excellent Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) who work tirelessly to support our school. The PTFA is currently planning a number of exciting projects for this year to raise funds for a new shelter for our students. This shelter will create an extended outdoor space for the students to use at break times, for learning and for extra-curricular activities. One fundraising proposal is to hold an event for students to showcase their creative talents. This event is scheduled to take place on the evening of Saturday 8 July 2023. If you would like to get involved with the PTFA to support the school in whatever way you can, we would be delighted to hear from you at [parentsassociationlms@gmail.com](mailto:parentsassociationlms@gmail.com). The next PTFA meeting is on 15 March 2023.



## **School Transport**

I recently wrote to the Transport Department at Derbyshire County Council to express my frustration at the consistently late arrival of a small number of our buses. While issues still remain, the situation appears to have improved and the vast majority of buses are now aligned with their scheduled arrival times. We continue to monitor the punctuality of school buses on a daily basis.

We have also reminded operators not to leave school until at least 3.45pm, and this has ensured a smoother and less rushed end to the school day. We have a large number of buses (over twenty) that leave our site simultaneously at the end of school, and I would like to take this opportunity to respectfully remind parents and carers to be mindful of this, if collecting students in cars at this time.

## **Strike Action**

As you will be aware, a national teachers' strike was held by the National Education Union (NEU) on 01 February. The school remained open for students in Year 7 and Year 11 and face-to-face lessons were taught throughout the day. Remote education was delivered to students from all other year groups. The vast majority of these students worked conscientiously in their lessons and adapted well to any enforced curriculum changes. Any strike always presents logistical difficulties and we are currently reviewing arrangements in preparation for the next planned strike day on 1 March 2023. Further information will be provided after half-term. A reminder that two further strikes are planned on Wednesday 15 March and Thursday 16 March.

## **Looking Ahead**

A number of important events are scheduled for after half-term, including music concerts on Wednesday 8 March and Thursday 30 March. These are always well-attended events and provide students with an opportunity to showcase their outstanding musical talents. Tickets are available from WisePay.

I hope you have a relaxing half-term break and I look forward to seeing our students again on Monday 27 February.

Mr Peat  
Headteacher  
Lady Manners School

