



Lady Manners School

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 5 Summer Term 2023

Introduction

The summer term is always a busy time of year. Students across all year groups have continued to work with commitment and there is a strong sense of community across the school. Thankfully, the days of working in isolated year group 'bubbles' now seem behind us. Our house system enables students of different ages to interact with each other and recent house assemblies have demonstrated a collective enthusiasm for winning the Wrench Shield at the end of the academic year.

Examinations (2023)

The examination season is well and truly upon us, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all students taking examinations the very best of luck. Students have attended revision classes in large numbers, including during the Easter holiday, and they deserve to succeed.

Students in Year 11, 12 and 13 are currently sitting their summer examinations. These year groups have experienced a significant amount of disruption due to Covid over the last few years and should be congratulated for their efforts and commitment during this difficult period.

In 2023, grading is returning to pre-pandemic levels which means that national headline results could potentially be lower than they were in 2022. However, certain protections are in place to ensure that students will achieve similar outcomes to those in pre-pandemic years.

These protections include:

- Support materials (eg formulae and equation sheets in some GCSEs)
- Grading protection (eg adjustment of grade boundaries, if required)
- Spaced-out examination timetable - ie exam papers in the same subject will not be close together
- Languages support - no testing of unfamiliar vocabulary

A reminder that results will be available on **Thursday 17 August** for AS and A Levels and **Thursday 24 August** for GCSEs and other Level 2 qualifications.

Catch-up work and Interventions

To support students across all year groups, staff regularly deliver a range of subject-specific interventions, including work in core subjects led by specialist learning mentors. Revision classes have been offered for examination groups during lunchtimes, and these sessions have been well-attended and constructive. Our Ukrainian students have been receiving specialist support from a recently appointed English Tutor and remain an integral part of our school community.

Commemoration Service

Our annual Commemoration Service was held on Thursday 4 May and attended by Year 7 students. The service told the story of how the school was founded by Grace, Lady Manners, and a commemorative wreath was laid at her tombstone. Excellent contributions from Year 13 School Officers and a Year 7 student explained how rules were introduced via a handwritten Charter. The Service also informed attending students and staff of how the school has changed and developed over the years. I'm sure future commemoration events will also refer to how the school adapted to the Covid era during the early 2020s!

As is customary, Canon Tony actively encouraged audience participation during the event. This year, this involved throwing different items of bread into the Year 7 audience to replicate sporting events. Somewhat unsurprisingly, Canon Tony thought it would be a good idea to involve the Headteacher in this activity, much to the amusement of our students!



Spring Concert

Congratulations to all students who contributed to our re-arranged Spring Concert. There were some excellent performances from a range of musicians, including the Senior Wind Band, the Junior and Senior Choirs, the Brass Ensemble, the Jazz Orchestra, the Clarinet Quartet and the Senior Orchestra.

We now look forward to our Summer Concert which is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 28 June from 6.30pm.



Spelling Bee Competition

Congratulations to three of our Year 7 students who have qualified for the national final of the Foreign Language Spelling Bee.

The final will take place at Cambridge University in June.

Well done on this outstanding achievement!

Sporting Success

Our sports teams have experienced significant success during the term and have once again shown just how talented they are across a diverse range of activities.

Notable recent successes include:

- U15 Boys Derbyshire Champions (Rugby 7). The team played 5 matches, conceding only 2 tries in the whole competition
- U13 Boys won the Rugby county 7 competition, only conceding two tries in the whole competition.
- U12 Girls and U13 Boys Indoor Athletics Champions. Both teams won the Derbyshire Dales competition and then went on to represent the region in the county championships.
- U12 Boys and U13 Girls came second in the regional indoor athletics championships.

We now look forward to our school sports day, which is scheduled for Friday 30 June. This annual event will enable students of all abilities to compete across different athletic specialisms.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Well done to students who have taken part in Duke of Edinburgh events. Over two recent weekends, 27 Year 10 students have successfully completed the training for the assessed expedition element of the Bronze level of the Duke of Edinburgh award. The expedition element of the award requires participants, working in groups, to plan and carry out a two-day expedition during which they must be entirely self-sufficient, walk carrying all of their equipment (including tents and food) for 6 hours each day and give a verbal presentation on a topic related to their expedition at the end.

The assessed expedition took place between Eyam, Monsal, Great Longstone and Calver, so plenty of hills! Despite tired feet, some sore shoulders and leg aches, all of those taking part did very well. The expedition debrief proved that such activities can help participants develop new skills (such as map reading and navigation), but also learn things about themselves, particularly regarding successful team work and resilience.



Lady Manners students begin the award in Year 10; current Year 9 students will be given the opportunity to hear more about the award and its benefits in the near future.

Transition and Induction Days

We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students from September and a number of events are planned to prepare them for a smooth transition into their secondary education. We have students joining us from fifty primary schools this year. Pastoral staff are currently conducting school visits and holding remote meetings to ensure our students are familiar with their new school before joining us in a few month's time. I would like to thank our current Year 7 guides in advance of these events who always do an outstanding job in supporting our transition work.

Transition Events

Next term, we will be holding two induction days to support Year 11 students who have applied to join our Sixth Form. This will be facilitated by a number of our Year 12 prefects who will provide first-hand experience of what day-to-day life is like as a Sixth Form Lady Manners student.

PTFA

Thank you to all students who have volunteered to take part in our forthcoming talent competition organised by our excellent PTFA team.

We are all appreciative of the fund-raising efforts of our enthusiastic PTFA Committee, who over the years, have contributed to many resources to enhance your child's experience at school. Last year, the Committee raised funds for an outdoor shelter, which has proved to be so popular that the students have asked for another one!

With this in mind, the PTFA has arranged a talent competition which will help to raise funds and, at the same time, enable our students to showcase their performance skills. The event is scheduled for 8 July 2023 (6pm-9pm) and tickets to see the show are available to purchase on Wisepay. All proceeds will go to the PTFA.

If you would like to join the PTFA further information is available on our website <https://www.ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk/about-us/ptfa/>

Faculty Focus: Creative Arts

Seeing the **Creative Arts Faculty** in action is always an enjoyable experience, whether it is the quiet contemplation found in the Art Curriculum Area as students work on their portfolios, or hearing the sounds of Black Sabbath's "Paranoid" blasting out from the Music corridor, there is always something going on to savour.

We have been delighted to develop links between Music, Drama and Art this year. This kicked off in style in November with school production of 'Chicago'.



Music - Students in Key Stage 3 have been enjoying the practical aspects of their music lessons and have created some wonderful project performances and compositions. The examination classes have been working hard on their coursework pieces ready for submission and are busy revising for their summer examinations.

The peripatetic teachers have been working hard with their students to push standards and nurture budding musicians. At Christmas we hosted an external examination session - there was an excellent pass rate with lots of musicians achieving merits and distinctions.

To date, the Music Curriculum Area has hosted seven large-scale events this academic year including Chicago, the Carol Service, Christmas Concerts, the GCSE and A level recital evening and two Concerts in the Spring Term. The standard of these events has been excellent and are a credit to the musicians' ongoing hard work and commitment.

Drama - Students in Key Stage 3 have enjoyed a diverse range of practical lessons and over 60 students in Year 9 attended an inspiring production of Blood Brothers in January. GCSE and A Level groups have created some excellent work and examination pieces. They have experienced inspiring workshops by Frantic Assembly and participated in a highly successful trip to see 'Ocean at the End of the Lane' in February. A Level groups also attended a London trip in March and experienced 4 shows and a tour of the National Theatre, all of which had a huge impact on them and their work for the live theatre section of the examination.

Highly successful Drama clubs have run throughout the year, including 'Boyzone' - a Drama club just for boys. Currently Key Stage 3 students are preparing for a drama show case at the beginning of July, which will include performances of 'Billy Bonker and the Banana Factory', 'Alice Returns to Wonderland' and 'Romeo and Juliet'.



In **Art**, collaborative work has taken place with Drama and Music in the Creative Arts Faculty. Students and staff were involved in designing and making costumes and scenery for the production of Chicago, and a number of Year 8 students are continuing to work in partnership by producing props and scenery at lunchtimes for their Drama work.

Earlier this year, Year 13 Art and Textiles students enjoyed a successful trip to London, travelling across the city on the tube and by foot to see different art and textiles work in various galleries. Year 11 Art students had an inspiring visit to Chatsworth, and the Textiles examination classes visited the inspiring 'Knitting and Stitching' show in Harrogate.

All year groups have produced awe-inspiring work in their lessons using all kinds of different 2D and 3D media. Year 11 students have kept the art and textiles rooms busy every lunchtime working independently on their coursework, and members of the Year 7 Art Club have used their imaginations to create sculptures from egg boxes!

In July, there will be an exhibition of all the GCSE and A level work completed by Lady Manners students. As usual, the quality of this work is anticipated to be outstanding!



On behalf of the staff, I wish you an enjoyable half term break and look forward to seeing students again on Monday 5 June 2023.

Mr Peat
Headteacher
Lady Manners School

