

Lady Manners School

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 6 Summer Term 2023

As we approach the end of another academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for your continuing support. It has been a challenging year for all involved in education, and the willingness of our school community to work together for the benefit of our students has been appreciated.

Despite well-publicised national issues in education, students at Lady Manners continue to thrive. I have consistently said that students are our greatest asset and this remains the case. We are proud of all our students and are continuously impressed by their achievements, both within and outside of school.

I would like to thank staff for their extended efforts throughout the summer period in supporting our students. I have lost count of the number of extra revision and intervention sessions that have taken place. A number of our subjects even delivered revision sessions on Sunday afternoons, which were well-attended by students in Year 11 and in Year 13.

Transition Events

Year 6 - New Starters in September

This is a very busy period in terms of transition and a number of high-profile events have taken place during the last few weeks.

We welcomed our new Year 6 students on school visits in June and July. Our new starters have now attended our school on two separate occasions and are becoming familiar with their new surroundings. During the second, full-day visit, students worked in their new tutor groups and participated in a variety of activities. In the evening, a welcome event was held for the families of new students. Parents and carers met form tutors and received important information regarding their child's transition to secondary education.



Year 11 Induction Days

Our prospective new Sixth Form students attended two induction days, on Monday 26 June and Tuesday 27 June. This provided an opportunity for students to experience taster lessons in their selected post-16 subjects, and also to get to know some of the students who will be joining us from other schools. Feedback from the induction days has been positive and we look forward to welcoming our new cohort from September.

Site Development (Unisex Toilets, Science Refurbishment and Electronic Signing In/Out System)

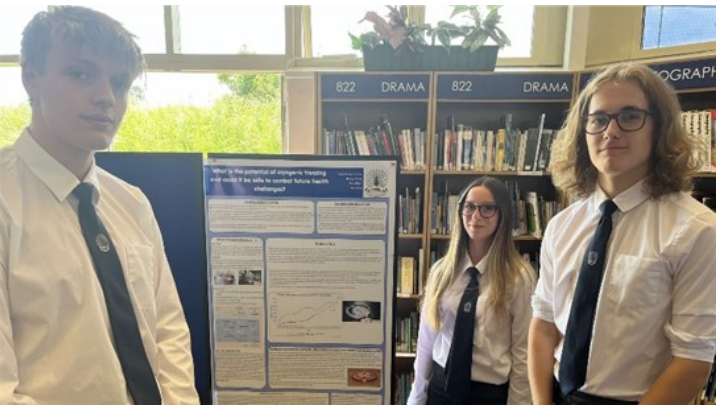
During the summer months, we are continuing to develop our school site.

We are updating our facilities by installing two more sets of open plan unisex toilets. These will be in the same style as the open plan toilets at the top of the sports link corridor that were refurbished last year and will consist of lockable, floor-to-ceiling cubicles. These new toilet blocks are in addition to the remaining single sex toilet blocks which will continue to be available for all students.

We are also refurbishing one of our science classrooms over the summer which will be converted into a bespoke laboratory.

To further enhance our safeguarding provision, we will be introducing a new 'Viziti' signing in and out system for visitors from September. Sixth Form students will also be able to electronically register for Independent Study periods in either the Sixth Form Centre or the Library using this system. Furthermore, students will now be required to sign out using the system when they leave the school site before 3.35pm.

Year 12 Science Presentations



During the term, Year 12 science students have been taking part in a collaborative project. This involved working in small teams to research solutions to the healthcare challenges of the future. To summarise their findings, students produced an academic poster which they then presented to local businesses, academics, governors, parents and carers.

We are proud of the work the students have produced and the guests were very impressed, complimenting the students on the high-quality posters and their excellent communication and presentation skills.

Sports Day

Our sports day was a huge success and once again students across all age groups performed exceptionally well across a series of athletic events, even breaking longstanding school records! Competitive activities took place throughout the day as students eagerly gained points for their respective Houses. These points will contribute significantly to the award of the Wrench Shield at the end of the academic year.

Drama Showcase

Over 70 key stage 3 students took part in a drama showcase on Wednesday 12 July. This was a chance for students who attend weekly lunchtime clubs to perform their own work to an outside audience.

The Year 7 team crafted their own hilarious piece, loosely based on a well-known story entitled 'Billy Bonker and the Banana Factory'. The creativity was matched by this year's Year 8 piece, which was a hugely successful adaptation of Alice in Wonderland.

Year 9 Drama Club took the brave decision to perform 'Romeo and Juliet', a specially adapted 30-minute, version which conquered the intricate Shakespearian language and brought a tear to the eye in the final tragic moments!

We are very much looking forward to the school's next Production, 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe', with auditions taking place in September.

There was a busy end of term for the Creative Arts Faculty with significant events in each curriculum area. Associate Board Music examinations took place for a number of students in Music in which there was 100% pass rate, including 15 merits and 11 distinctions.



Summer Concert

Congratulations to all students who participated in an outstanding summer music concert. The concert provided an opportunity for students across all year groups to showcase their talents. As well as a series of outstanding solo performances, the audience was treated to 'Rock Thursdays', a brass ensemble, a junior strings performance and a toe-tapping finale from our intermediate wind band. The junior choir also performed a number of memorable vocal performances, in what was a highly enjoyable occasion.

World of Work Week

Year 10 students recently enjoyed a 'World of Work' week as part of their career guidance education. Students participated in two days off timetable where they experienced speaker workshops, team-building activities and skills lessons. They also listened to a range of speakers who delivered sessions on Higher Education and employability skills. Across the week, students had the opportunity to experience an interview with an employer, which was a rewarding and useful experience. We are very grateful to all of the employers who participated during the week - students had an enjoyable time and learned a great deal.

Art and Textiles Exhibition

The work of over a hundred GCSE and A Level Art and Textiles students went on display for an end of year exhibition. This was an opportunity to see some outstanding artwork from our extremely creative and talented students. The event was well-attended and students were able to show their families and friends what they had achieved. Thank you to all the students whose effort throughout their course enabled this event to take place.

Sporting Achievements

A significant number of Lady Manners students have experienced individual sporting success both within and outside of school, and a growing number continue to perform at an elite level. This includes Idris Khan (Year 10), who is a Great Britain Global Games gold medallist in adaptive judo, and Cody Bassett (Year 7) who is the East Midlands U12 cycling champion.



Rewards Trips

During the final week of term, students have been attending rewards trips in recognition of their hard work and achievements during the year. These trips included visits to Alton Towers, Twycross Zoo, the Trafford Centre and Cineworld. Local walks were also organised for students across the different year groups.

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.

In order to maintain our very high uniform standards, we ask that you ensure your child has the correct uniform ready for the new school year in September. Details of the uniform can be found on our website. Please be aware that we will always facilitate parents and carers in accessing correct uniform and, where appropriate, supply items of uniform on either a short-term or permanent basis.

Parental Communications with School

Lady Manners is one of the largest schools in Derbyshire with over 1450 students on roll. Our staff always try their best to deal with issues as quickly as practically possible, and in a thorough and professional manner. Due to the size of our school, it is not always possible to respond to issues immediately or to see people who turn up at our school without a prior appointment.

The vast majority of our parents and carers are supportive, patient and understanding. However, a very small number of parents/carers mistakenly believe that it is acceptable to speak or correspond with staff, including office and pastoral staff, in a disrespectful, rude or threatening manner.

Recent communications have left highly experienced staff shaken and upset. This is clearly not acceptable. Please be aware that telephone calls and meetings will be terminated immediately if any parent or carer acts in an aggressive, abusive or intimidating manner.

We ask that you treat our staff with the same respect you would expect to receive. In return, we commit to doing our absolute best in helping you and your children in any way we can.

Updating Student Details

A reminder to parents and carers that if you move house or change your email address or telephone number, please let the school know as soon as possible by emailing info@ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk. It is important that we have the correct information on our system.

PTFA

The PTFA continues to raise funds for our school. As part of their fund-raising efforts, a talent competition was held on Saturday 8 July, which provided an exciting opportunity for students to perform in front of a live audience.

Of the ten acts on show, singers, a rock band, a solo drummer, a saxophonist, a magician and dancers graced the stage and all acts did themselves proud. The eventual winner of the competition was one of our Ukrainian students from Year 7, Sonya, who delivered a stunning performance of Bohemian Rhapsody on the piano - with no sheet music! Huge congratulations to Sonya and all our performers.

We are currently raising funds to build an outdoor shelter which will be located adjacent to our main hall. As well as being used as a general relaxation area for our students during breaks and lunchtimes, this will create an outdoor area for visitors to use during school events.

Staff Leavers

We send our best wishes to members of staff who are leaving us at the end of the summer, either to enjoy a well-earned retirement or to embark upon a new career opportunity. Good luck to all our departing colleagues.

Miss J Boden	Teacher of Science
Ms M Hernandez Meza	Teacher of MFL
Miss O Merrill	Teacher of Science
Mr P O'Donnell	Teacher of Mathematics
Miss A Rodgers	Teacher of Science
Dr A White	Teacher of Science
Miss L Wood	Teacher of History

Staff Arrivals

We have been busy recruiting staff in recent months and have been delighted with the appointments we have made. We look forward to welcoming our new staff, who will begin their new roles in September.

Mrs A Bladen	Teacher of Mathematics
Dr C Daniels	Teacher of Science
Mr D Lee	Teacher of Science
Mr R Meecham	Teacher of Science
Dr I Nash	Curriculum Leader for Chemistry
Miss I Spendlove	Teacher of PE
Mr E Tapia Meza	Teacher of MFL
Miss R Wood	Teacher of History

Examinations

Congratulations to students in Years 11, 12, and 13 who have now completed their summer examinations. These year groups have experienced a considerable amount of disruption due to Covid over the last few years and should be commended on their efforts and commitment during this difficult period. We look forward to receiving the summer results on Thursday 17 August (A Level and equivalent qualifications) and on Thursday 24 August (GCSE and equivalent qualifications).

Conclusion

Students now have a long summer break to relax and recharge their batteries. We look forward to welcoming students back on a phased return after the holiday. New Year 7 and Year 12 students will return on Wednesday 6 September before being joined by all other year groups on Thursday 7 September.

Mr Peat
Headteacher
Lady Manners School

