

# Lady Manners School

## Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 1 Autumn Term 2023

First of all, I would like to congratulate all students on the excellent start they have made to the new academic year. As usual, there is a lot happening, and students across all age groups are making the most of the opportunities available to them.

New Year 7 students have settled well and are fully participating in the life of the school. Along with Year 12 students, they attended our annual Commemoration event in Bakewell Church recently, which recognised and celebrated the life of the school's founder Grace, Lady Manners. Students heard about how the school has evolved since 1636 and the different rules that applied when the school first opened.

Canon Tony delivered an interactive and engaging speech, and as usual the school choir was excellent in supporting the event.



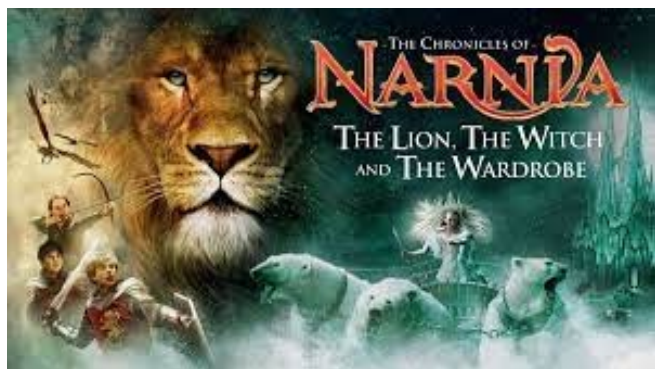
### School Closure (Friday 20 October)

The weather conditions last Friday were unprecedented, particularly in terms of the impact on local road networks. We would like to formally acknowledge the outstanding attitude demonstrated by our students and we thank the many parents and carers who supported our efforts in evacuating the school site. It is always a difficult decision to close a school, particularly during a school day, but as the weather worsened and the conditions of roads deteriorated, we were left with no alternative.

We would also like to formally thank and commend the team of bus drivers that service our local routes for their flexibility and tenacity in ensuring our students arrived home safely. Their efforts were appreciated by all members of our school community.

Unfortunately, it appears that extreme weather conditions are becoming increasingly common. We politely request that parents and carers talk to their children to ensure they know what to do should it be necessary to close the school early in the future.

### School Production



Rehearsals and preparations are well underway for this year's production of the children's classic 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. A huge Aslan Puppet is currently being constructed by our artists, alongside a multitude of magical props and costumes. A talented technical crew has been assembled, who are currently designing the sound and lighting. Meanwhile, our 100 strong cast have been rehearsing enthusiastically for what promises to be a heart-warming and exciting show, where the audience will be transported to the magical and fantastical world of Narnia.

The production takes place on Thursday 30 November, Friday 1 December and Saturday 2 December 2023 - tickets will be available soon!

## Languages

The new academic year kicked off in truly international style for KS4 and KS5 languages students. During the first week of term, 45 of our Year 11 and Year 13 French students took part in a five-day trip to Paris. As well as experiencing the sights, they also had the opportunity to go to a French language school and practise phrases they could then use in shops and cafés around the city.

In the second week of term, our Year 10 and Year 11 students participated in engaging and informative workshops delivered by a languages ambassador who previously worked at Arsenal FC. Students discussed job opportunities in the world of sport and the advantages that knowing a foreign language can bring in this area. They even participated in a lunchtime football match in which 'France' played 'Germany' and instructions were given in the respective languages.

At the end of September, 'Business Language Champions', an organisation which highlights the benefits of languages in business, led a cross-curricular day at Lady Manners ('The International Space Challenge') with teams from seven different schools. Students used their knowledge of science and engineering in conjunction with language skills to design, build and market a prototype for an international space hotel. We were proud of the performance of all our students and our French team were runners up in the competition, having presented their design, in French, to a panel of judges.

Later in the term, our KS3 students will also have the opportunity to build on their language skills in extra-curricular events, including the foreign language spelling bee and translation bee competitions.

## Sport



Our sports teams continue to excel across all year groups. I have had the pleasure of watching a large number of sporting fixtures over the last few weeks and have been impressed with performances in a range of sports, including netball, rugby and football. House events are currently taking place involving students from all year groups. Participants are busy representing one of four houses, Barker, Cockerton, Glossop and Taylor, in pursuit of points in the hope of eventually winning the Wrench Shield. This prestigious award will be presented at the end of the academic year.

## Open Evening

Our Year 6 Open Evening was a huge success and was attended by a large number of families. A big thank you to all current students who acted as guides throughout the event. This was appreciated by our visitors and many positive comments were received about how impressively they represented our school. A particular well done to Year 7 students, Ruby and Rafferty, who gave such confident inputs during the headteacher talks in the main hall. A reminder that the deadline for applications for September 2024 entry into secondary schools is **31 October 2023**.

We now look forward to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 23 November 2023.

## School Officers

We have recently appointed our Year 13 School Officer team following a robust interview process. All have made an excellent start in their new roles and have already made positive contributions to whole-school events.

Congratulations go to George Colver and Rose Anderson, who were appointed as Senior School Officers, and to Harry Houghton, Robbie Milton, Emillie Spear and Fern Weir who were appointed as Deputy School Officers.

## Attendance

Attendance remains a key priority for us, as I am sure it is for you, and I am delighted that rates of attendance have improved significantly following the recent period of disruption. As a school, we encourage parents and carers to ensure that their child achieves maximum possible attendance and that any problems that prevent this are brought to our attention at the earliest opportunity so that our pastoral team can support your child.

Of course, there will be times when your child is too unwell to attend school. When this is the case, please let us know before 9.00 am each day via the Class Charts attendance tab, or by emailing the relevant pastoral team who support your child's year group.

### **Election of Parent Governor**

Further to the recent ballot for a Parent Governor to join the Governing Board, we are delighted to inform you that Mrs Sarah Thompson has been appointed for a four-year term of office.

### **Toilet Provision**

Thank you to all who have provided constructive feedback regarding toilet provision at Lady Manners School.

As you will be aware from my previous newsletter, we improved our toilet facilities for students over the summer. We have been informed that there has been some unhelpful misinformation circulating via social media and I would like to clarify the position in school.

To meet the needs of all students, we have a mixture of single-sex toilets, unisex toilets and accessible toilets that are available to students across all year groups. This means that students can choose where they go to the toilet and it ensures that toilets are available for all students across the site. During the summer, we upgraded two sets of toilets that had previously been single-sex toilets and these became unisex toilets. As stated in the newsletter, single-sex toilet facilities remained available for all students to use.

We constantly review practices across all aspects of our provision and the student voice continues to be an important source of feedback for us. There are clearly a wide and diverse range of views regarding how best to allocate our toilet provision and a number of highly contrasting opinions have been heard. After listening carefully to all feedback during our initial review period, particularly in relation to pragmatic and operational considerations, we have decided to amend the organisation of our toilet facilities after half-term.

As mentioned, we will continue to adhere to the principle of having different types of provision available to all students and a mixture of unisex, single-sex and accessible toilets will remain available across the school site. However, our newly refurbished toilets in the mathematics and English areas will return to single-sex facilities (maths = girls / boys = English). Single-sex toilets will continue to operate in the PD area, the Sports Centre and in the Sixth Form. Unisex toilets will remain in use at the top of the Sports Link corridor and provision in this area will be extended. Unisex facilities will continue to be available in our Vocational Centre, as they have since the block was originally built in 2010.

Thank you again for your feedback and particularly to those parents and carers who liaised directly with the school regarding this issue.

### **Campbell Blair Orphan Endowment**

The Campbell Blair Orphan Endowment is a charity that was set up in 1941 to provide financial assistance to students attending Lady Manners School who have lost one or both parents/carers through death. The assistance is available to help to make a difference for students.

Applications for assistance are welcome from parents and carers. The deadline for the next round of applications is **13 November 2023**. After this date, Trustees will consider the applications and will offer financial assistance where possible.

The application form can be found [here](#). If you require any further information or assistance, please email [cboe@ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:cboe@ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk).

### **Staff Training Day**

A reminder that Monday 06 November is a staff training day and we welcome all students back to school on **Tuesday 07 November**.

### **Y7 Maths in the Real World of Business Project**



During the summer term, Year 7 students were given the opportunity to work on a collaborative Business and Maths project in small groups for a morning. All students took part in a carousel of activities, where they were taught about branding, advertising, market research, costings and profit.

In their teams, the students designed an ice cream, considering the flavours and toppings for their target market. Logos for the target markets were designed and students calculated the profit their business would make over the summer months.

The winning team in each form was awarded a voucher to recognise the students' teamwork, collaboration and success in completing the tasks during the morning. The project was a successful event enjoyed by students and staff, that we hope to run this again in future years.

### **Links with the Devonshire Arms-External Visitors**

We are excited to be working closely with the Devonshire Group who are supporting our Sixth Form students. We welcomed a visit from Richard Palmer, the Managing Director of the Devonshire Hotel and Restaurants. He came to talk with our Year 12 Cambridge Technical students about aspects of the Devonshire Arms, Bolton Abbey. Our students were given the opportunity to ask questions to help them gain a valuable, real-life insight into a business, and how it operates.

In addition to this we were excited to then have a question-and-answer session with Jon Steers, the Manager of the Devonshire Arms, Beeley, who gave an interesting talk to our Year 13 Cambridge Technical students about the Marketing aspects of business.

### **UKMT Maths Challenges**

We have continued to enter our students in the UK Maths Trust (UKMT) challenges. These competitions are designed to develop students' problem-solving skills and depth of mathematical understanding. A number of our students have qualified for follow-on rounds based on their performance during the original challenge. Recently, we had a record number of Year 12 & Year 13 students taking part in the Senior Maths Challenge and we are eagerly awaiting their results. We also ran a house team maths challenge competition for Year 7 and Year 8 cohorts, which involved students developing some excellent teamwork and collaborative thinking skills.

### **Year 12 Maths External Speaker**

We welcomed a Data Analyst to talk to our Year 12 mathematicians about the use of statistics in real life. This helped students to reflect on the practical applications of their studies and also encouraged them to think about future career ideas and how their maths skills may be involved.

We wish you a relaxing and enjoyable half-term.

Mr Peat  
Headteacher  
Lady Manners School

