



Lady Manners School

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 2 Autumn Term 2023

The Christmas term is always a busy one. Students have maintained their focus throughout this long term and have achieved significant successes. House events have contributed to a real sense of community across the school and it has been pleasing to see different year groups interact so positively with each other.

Remembrance Service

This term is traditionally a time when many high-profile events are held. In November, we had our annual Remembrance Service. This was a moving occasion which, as usual, was immaculately observed by students. During the main service, students heard about the life of former Lady Manners student, John Francis Aitken, who sadly lost his life during World War 1 while fighting in the Battle of Ypres. A series of year group assemblies were also held throughout the week, led by our Curriculum Leader for History, Mr Woodward. The assemblies focussed on the diaries of Maria Gyte, who lived in Sheldon, near Bakewell. Special thanks go to Mr Woodward and also to Mr Law who led an extended service for our younger students.

Drama Production

The performance of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' took place over three nights earlier this term. Students from a range of year groups performed magnificently and should be proud of their achievement. Thanks go to the large numbers of students and staff who helped behind the scenes to make this such a memorable occasion.



School Christmas Concert and Carol Service

Congratulations to all students who performed at our Christmas Concert this year.

The event provided an opportunity for our exceptional musicians to showcase their talents and there were outstanding performances from school choirs, orchestras and bands. This was a wonderful occasion attended by a large audience who clearly enjoyed the event. A big thank you to Mr Haworth, Mrs Maunder, Mrs Kornas and Sixth Form conductor, Eric Harris, for their efforts in ensuring the success of the event



Students attended Bakewell Church in December to take part in our Christmas Service. Students read lessons during the service and spoke eloquently and confidently. The school choir and musicians were magnificent and the event was enjoyed by all who attended.

Presentation Evening

We were delighted to welcome back a number of our former students to Lady Manners this week as we celebrated their achievements during the summer examinations. Former students were joined by existing Sixth Form students who received certificates and prizes in recognition of their successes during the previous academic year. The guest speaker at the event was former student Andy Marlor who delivered an engaging speech as he talked about his experiences both at school and during his career. Congratulations to all award winners.

Mock Examinations

Year 11 students have recently completed their mock examinations. This time is always useful to identify gaps in learning and to prepare targeted intervention, on both an individual and whole-class basis. As mock papers are reviewed, careful reflection at this stage will prove hugely beneficial next summer.

The support of families during examination periods is crucial and I was delighted to see so many parents and carers attend our Year 11 revision evening in November. This event highlighted a selection of evidence-backed revision techniques and attendees had the opportunity to discuss subject-specific ideas with teaching staff. During the event, practical advice was provided which will enable parents and carers to support students in preparing for the forthcoming summer examinations.

It is pleasing that so many of our students have regularly attended the large number of intervention and revision classes that have been offered by many different subjects. Year 12 and 13 students have also been busy preparing for their external assessments and mock examinations, which are scheduled to take place shortly after the Christmas holiday. Once again, these mocks will be helpful in preparing our students for the summer and in identifying potential areas for improvement.

Young Enterprise



This year we have a team of eighteen hardworking and creative Year 12 students participating in the Young Enterprise Programme.

The team, 'Homely Hippo', meet on a weekly basis with a Business Advisor who provides advice on the key decisions about their business. These decisions include the allocation of roles, the management of finances, marketing strategies and operational issues. The team has been selling its products to the public and competing against other schools in the competition stages of the programme. The students have also attended numerous Christmas markets over the festive period. Their most recent event was at Haddon Hall where the team sold their hand-stitched garments, showcasing their business and promotional skills.

Wellbeing Event

Family Support, Changing Lives and CAMHS recently facilitated a parent and carer workshop for students in Year 7, which explored practical ways to support children and young people to manage anxiety, low mood and improve wellbeing. The session covered key topics such as understanding the 'teenage brain', navigating adolescence and managing anger. The feedback highlighted the workshop's success and we hope to offer these sessions to parents and carers across the year groups in 2024.

Languages

Year 9 students took part in the GCHQ National Language Challenge, competing over a week in November as language codebreakers on a 'mission' for MI5. Over 3000 teams competed nationally and our top team came well within the top 25% of all teams. Well done to all participants!

Year 8 students have once again been putting their skills to the test in the National Translation Bee, working on translating as many sentences as they can in one minute from English into French, German or Spanish. The finalists will go through to our school final after Christmas.

Students in Year 7 are also competing fiercely in the 'Spelling Bee', having learned the alphabet in French, German or Spanish. They are learning how to spell 50 words in the language they are learning,

competing to go through to the school final in January and then to the regional finals after that! Well done to all Year 7 students for taking part in this challenge and building their resilience and confidence in the process.

Environment



Students have been using their lunchtimes and braving the cold weather to plant saplings in the school grounds. Over 300 saplings were donated by the Woodland Trust following a successful application earlier this year. This is all part of the school's Rutland Wetland Project. It is hoped that the saplings will form a hedge around the area that is developing into a wildflower meadow. The hedge will not only make a protective natural barrier but also provide food and habitats for small mammals, birds and insects.

Despite the students' best efforts, there were still many saplings to plant. This prompted two of our teachers, Dr. Lennard and Mr Johnson, to continue the work on Saturday 2nd December.

PTFA and Fundraising

We are grateful to our PTFA for their fundraising efforts on behalf of the school. A number of events have been held recently and more projects are planned. We are always seeking to increase our fundraising capacity and are appreciative of the support provided to the benefit of our current and future students. If you would like to support the school's efforts in raising funds, please contact our Business Manager, Janet Snell, for further information or for an informal discussion via telephone (01629-812671, ext. 105) or email (janet.snell@ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk).

Staffing News

We send Rosie Lloyd our very best wishes as she leaves Lady Manners to take up a new role with a company called Ark Curriculum Plus, who are linked to the Ark Academy Group. She will be the lead manager for teacher professional development for those schools using the science curriculum.

Meet the Faculty



Faculty of Personal and
Physical Development



Faculty Focus: Personal and Physical Development

Our passion is the holistic development of children and young people. We aim to ensure that all students can fulfil their potential and take up their rightful places in the world.

Across the faculty, there is a real emphasis on training leaders with the values, knowledge, and skill to face the challenges of tomorrow.

In PD, students follow an ambitious curriculum in which they are challenged to learn how to be better learners and how to develop the seven habits of highly effective people.

In PE lessons, students discover the life-long benefits of physical activity for physical and mental health, whilst in RSHE lessons, students learn about healthy relationships, the dangers of substance abuse and how to stay healthy, safe, and happy.



In social studies and citizenship, students gain the cultural capital needed to thrive in a diverse society. Mr Lee has recently been appointed as Curriculum Leader for Social Studies, expanding the faculty. This year we will be collaborating on projects to improve participation in sport and to prevent violence against women.

New Courses and Qualifications

Two new KS4 courses have started this year in Year 10; Cambridge National qualifications in Health & Social Care and Sports Studies. This is in addition to a range of GCSE, A Level and vocational courses offered by the Faculty. To complement these courses, the Sports Leaders Award has also grown in popularity, with significant numbers of students in Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 participating.

Sport

School sport continues to thrive. Students have been competing in county, regional and national competitions. Rugby and football teams have enjoyed great success. A special mention to the U16 boys' football team, who reached round 5 of the National Cup. Girl's rugby has continued to grow. We now have around 35 girls who regularly attend rugby training. The girls have played in a touch rugby festival and will soon compete against other schools in a full contact match. Girls' netball has also been very successful. We have victories across all year groups and the senior, U15 and U13 teams have already competed in the county festivals.

This term has also seen the start of our annual house competitions, including house rugby and house basketball. The highlight of the sporting house events for this term was the cross-country. We had over 500 students taking part.



Concluding Comments

We wish all members of our school community an enjoyable festive break. Following the Christmas holiday, we will be holding a staff CPD day before welcoming all students back to Lady Manners on Tuesday 9 January 2024.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all staff and students at Lady Manners School!

Mr Peat
Headteacher

