



# Lady Manners School

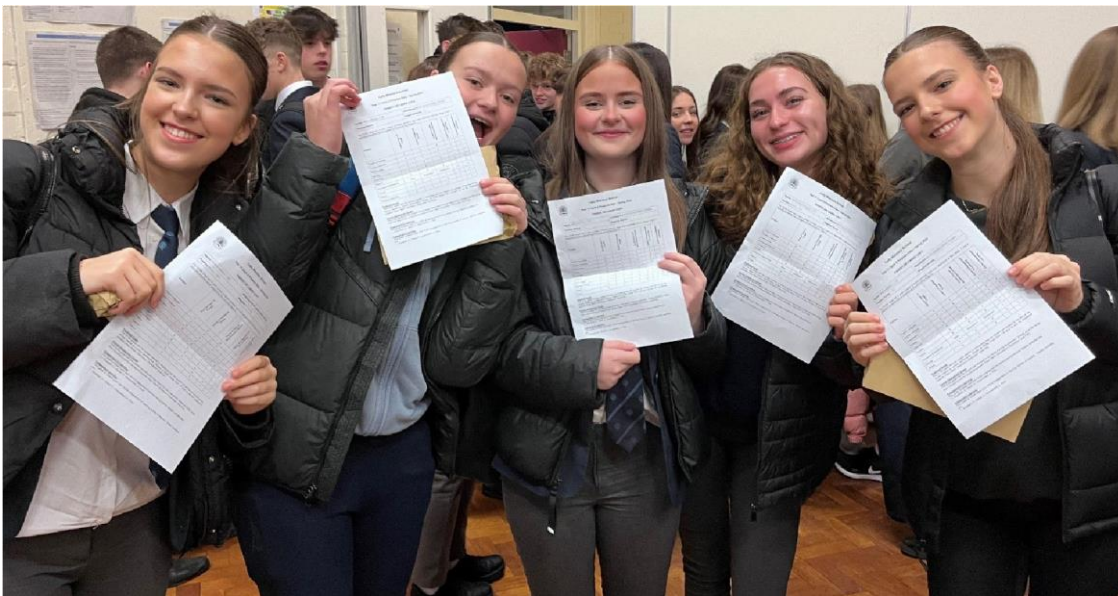
## Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 1 Spring Term 2024

This has been another positive and busy term. Students across all year groups have participated in a wide range of events and achieved significant successes.

### Mock Exams

Congratulations to students who have completed their mock examinations. Year 11 students recently received their grades in a special 'mock results' ceremony. This was a hugely positive occasion and should motivate students to achieve or exceed their target grades in the summer. Students have now gained valuable experience of formal examinations before they work towards sitting their actual qualifications in the summer.



Congratulations to Sixth Form students who recently sat external assessments in their vocational subjects. Well done also to post-16 students who achieved excellent GCSE maths and English re-sit results in January. We are particularly proud of our Ukrainian students who performed so well in these examinations.

### Year 9 Options Evening

This is an important time for our Year 9 students as they choose their options for key stage 4 courses. Decisions taken now will shape the next two years. We were delighted to see so many parents and carers at our recent Options Evening. Thank you to attendees who have taken the time to provide feedback.

### School Closure

Thank you to all parents and carers for your support during our recent school closure due to the bad weather. The closure was in response to an amber weather warning issued across the region. Work was made available on ClassCharts for all students and a number of live lessons were also offered throughout the day.

Closing the school is a difficult decision and one which is always carefully considered, particularly given our very wide catchment area. While all efforts will be made to keep the school open, the safety of our students and staff will remain a priority consideration at all times.

### Vaping

In the week beginning 29 January, Year 7 to 11 students attended assemblies which highlighted the dangerous impact of vaping. Vaping has become a serious safeguarding concern nationally and students were shown a short video about a girl's story of her health deterioration as a result of vaping. The assembly

message was primarily about the impact of vaping on long-term health, yet we also made clear that vaping is strictly prohibited within the school premises and will carry serious sanctions.

We encourage parents and carers to have open conversations with your child about the dangers of vaping. Addressing this issue at home, alongside our efforts at school, can have a significant impact on their choices. Further information and support can be found at [Action for Children](#) or [Talk to Frank](#).

### **Safer internet day and sending of illicit material**

To mark **Safer Internet Day**, assemblies were held for Year 7 to Year 11 students to highlight important issues in relation to the use of mobile phones. The potential dangers of social media profile settings and sending illicit material were discussed, with the aid of very powerful and thought-provoking videos: [How Private is Your Personal Information](#) (Action Fraud) and [Just Send It](#) (UK Safer Internet Centre).

### **Lockdown Procedure**

Advance notice that we will be talking through our lockdown procedure in tutor groups after half-term. This is to provide information to students in the highly unlikely event of an emergency lockdown situation occurring at school.

### **Detentions**

We expect all our students to display exemplary behaviour. Where standards are not maintained, it may become necessary for staff to issue a detention. Whilst we will always endeavour to inform families of after-school detentions, we respectfully remind you that schools have clear legal authority to detain students without the consent of a parent or carer. This covers both lunchtime and after-school detentions. If a student fails to attend a detention without an approved reason, the school may issue a more severe punishment.

### **Girls' Rugby**



The U15 girls have now played their first competitive, fullcontact rugby matches. The girls travelled to Hill House School, in Doncaster, to take part in a rugby festival. They played two matches, winning their very first game and then narrowly losing the second. Girls' rugby has really started to develop at Lady Manners, with over thirty students regularly attending training sessions. The next fixture is scheduled for 2 March.

### **Young Enterprise**

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

The enterprise team, 'Homely Hippo', recently attended an event at Haddon Hall to sell their handstitched garments, made by the dedicated production team. Members of the team were able to showcase their business acumen, promoting and selling their product to the public. From being a part of Young Enterprise, our students gain the opportunity to run a 'real-life' business, working as a team, gaining leadership skills, developing an enterprising mindset, and becoming problem solvers. Congratulations to all involved.



## **Fund-raising**

We are always looking to improve our school and are presently discussing a number of exciting projects that would benefit both our current and future students. The ambitious nature of some of these projects means that significant fund-raising would be required. If any member of our school community has experience of fund-raising and is willing to support or advise us in our efforts to raise money, please contact our Business Manager, Janet Snell, on **01629 812671** for a 'no obligation' discussion.

## **Faculty Focus: Computing and Technology**

Within the Computing and Technology Faculty, students study a range of subjects including computing, design & technology, food technology, creative iMedia, engineering, construction and computer science.

## **Key Stage Three Design Technology and Food Technology**

January saw the start of a new key stage three rotation lesson, to enable students to further develop their designing and making skills. Four groups of Year 7 students started work on a food technology module, designing and making a range of salad products that would be suitable for selling in a supermarket. Year 7 students working in Design and Technology completed work on their mini-bot and oil burner 'design and make' projects.



All key stage three students have been working hard on their projects and have been presenting their ideas with great care in new workbooks. These have been produced in-house and present a shared vision of our approach to teaching and learning.

## **Key Stages Four and Five Design Technology and Food Technology**

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are working hard to complete their controlled assessments and coursework projects, responding to a range of design and make tasks supplied by the examination boards. emerging.

## **Key Stage Four Vocational Technology**

Having completed learning units on joinery, electrical installation and personal organisation, Year 11 construction learners have been preparing for their assessed brick and block-work unit. The two groups have been engaging very well and some impressive levels of skill are



## Computing

Enhancing the school's STEM facilities, the Computing Curriculum Area recently invested in a high-quality 3D printer. The model purchased **Spring Term Events / Key Dates for your diary**

is a state-of-the-art machine incorporating brand new technology that uses liquid resin and digital light processing to produce objects.

This equipment ties in very well with a Year 9 project, where students use online character creation software (Hero Forge) as part of a Product Development module of work. It is also envisaged in the near future to run extracurricular activities using this exciting, new capability.



Wednesday 28 February	18:00	A Level Recital Evening (Ashford Church)
Thursday 29 February	16:00 - 19:30	Year 10 Parents' Evening (Remote)
Tuesday 5 March		Year 11 and Year 13 Group Photographs
Wednesday 6 March	18:30	Spring Concert (Main Hall)
Thursday 7 March	18:00	Online Safety Workshop for Parents (Main Hall)
Wednesday 13 March	18:00	PTFA Meeting (Meeting Room 3)
Saturday 16 March	10:00 - 13:00	Easter 'Eggstravaganza'
Monday 18 March	16:00 - 19:30	Year 8 Parents' Evening (Remote)
Thursday 21 March	18:30	Easter Concert (Sports Hall)
Sunday 24 March		PTFA Car Boot Sale (Outdoors and Indoors)
Tuesday 26 March		DTP/ACWY Vaccinations for Year 9
Thursday 28 March		End of Term 4
Monday 15 April		Start of Term 5

On behalf of all staff at Lady Manners School, I wish you an enjoyable and restful half-term break.

Mr Peat  
Headteacher

