



# Lady Manners School

## Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 4 Spring Term 2024

Although this has been a relatively short half-term, our students have continued to thrive in lessons and have performed well across a wide range of extra-curricular activities. We are aware of the many successes experienced by Lady Manners students both in and away from school, many of which are publicised on our Facebook page. It is always a pleasure to hear about individual and team successes in different activities and we actively encourage all parents, carers and students to let the school know of out-of-school achievements.

### Spring Concerts

We were pleased to see students perform at our music concerts earlier this month. As usual, the varied programme enabled our younger students to showcase their musical talents and to perform in front of a live audience. We also said good-bye to our Year 13 musicians at our Easter Concert after many accomplished performances and years of dedicated service to the school. Students who performed on the evening, including in choirs, bands and our school orchestra, were outstanding. Thank you to Mr Haworth and all music staff, for leading rehearsals throughout the term.



### Mobile Phones

The Government has recently issued guidance regarding the use of mobile phones in schools. We welcome this guidance as mobile phones risk unnecessary distraction and have the potential to disrupt learning. This not only impacts the individual student using the phone, but may also disrupt a lesson for the whole class.

Rather than an outright ban, mobile phones will be allowed at Lady Manners for the safety of students when travelling to and from school and when phones are used as part of a supervised learning activity. At all other times mobile phones must not be seen (from 8.45 am until the end of the school day). If seen, the phone will be confiscated and a lunchtime detention issued. The phone will be returned at the end of the day. On the third occasion, the phone will remain in school until collected by a parent or carer.

In exceptional circumstances when students need to contact home during the school day, they should see a member of staff who will arrange for a call to be made.

Smart watches, which have the same functionality as mobile phones, also have the potential to cause unnecessary distractions. We will be considering the use of these carefully over the next term.

We thank you for your ongoing support with this issue which will enable all students to maximise their learning without distractions at our school.

## Student Achievements



Congratulations to Billy Carter in Year 7 who was placed 4th in his young handler's class at Crufts with Harry, his Hungarian Vizsla. A wonderful experience for them both. We are very proud of them.



Congratulations also to one of our former students, Charlie Finney, who has just been handed his first professional football contract at Coventry City. We wish him every success in his future career.

## ClassCharts: Important Information for Parents and Carers

### Notifications

Please remember to allow notifications from ClassCharts on your mobile phones so that announcements made from school will be received in a similar way to text messages.

### ClassCharts Messaging

A polite reminder that the message feature on ClassCharts is for **student use only**. If parents/carers need to contact school or a teacher, please email [year?@ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:year?@ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk) (remembering to insert the appropriate year group into the email address, eg year7@.....)

### Absences/Feeling Unwell

If your child is too unwell to attend school, please notify us via the **REPORT ABSENCE** tab in ClassCharts.

If your child is unwell at school, he or she will inform their teacher or Head of Year and be assessed by a member of staff who is trained in first aid. If the student is too unwell to remain at school, a member of staff will contact you to organise their collection to go home.

This process must be followed to ensure the safety of all students. It is not acceptable for students to call parents or carers independently and request to be collected. As mentioned, mobile phones should not be used in the school day unless explicit permission is given from a member of staff. If a student uses their phone without permission, the appropriate sanction will be applied.

### Mock Exams

Congratulations to all students who have recently completed their mock examinations. Gaps in learning have been identified across different subjects and students will be fully supported in preparing for the busy summer period.

Attendance at intervention and catch-up classes has been excellent. We are running an Easter revision programme at school for Year 11 and Year 13 students which will cover a range of subjects. We look forward to seeing as many students as possible taking advantage of this opportunity to further enhance their subject knowledge.

### Languages

**Languages Club:** Students in lower year groups have been enjoying craft activities this term in Languages Club, including making models of the Three Kings for Epiphany, crafting multi-lingual Valentine's cards, and painting Easter eggs. They have simultaneously been learning about traditions for these festivals in different countries. A reminder that the club takes place on a Monday lunchtime at 1pm.

**Sanako Assembly:** Year 8 and Year 9 students were invited to a special assembly on 25 March led by David Binns, Managing Director of Sanako UK. His aim was to highlight to students the importance and benefits of learning a modern foreign language in today's Internet-driven, global economy. He talked about his own experiences and how being able to put a language on his CV brought about lots of opportunities, as well as giving many real-world examples of languages at work. A clear message was given that languages can help to build relationships and provide unique experiences throughout life.

### International Exchanges

#### Slovenia

On 5 and 6 March we welcomed visitors from a school in Slovenia. 18 students and 4 teachers spent a busy two days with us. 29 of our Year 9 students acted as 'buddies', looking after their Slovenian partner for the stay. Our visitors took part in a historical walk in Bakewell, played volleyball, completed a mathematical treasure hunt and took part in drama, English, biology and food technology lessons.

## German Exchange

18 students and 2 teachers arrived from Bamberg on 11 March for a ten-day exchange with Year 10 students. Our visitors participated in lessons in school and went on day trips to Liverpool and Leeds. They also had a timetable of bespoke lessons prepared by teachers from D&T, business studies, maths and PE. Our own students benefited enormously and were able to practise their language skills with friendly and supportive partners. The cultural capital gained from such a programme is extremely valuable and our students are very much looking forward to visiting Germany in July.

## Term Time Holidays

Regular attendance at school has a profound impact on how well students perform. Research has demonstrated that each lost day of education makes a genuine difference to learning.

Permission is required from the Headteacher if a parent or carer wants to take their child out of school during term time. This permission will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances. Recent guidance from the DfE has attempted to strengthen responses to non-attendance. Under the new national framework, all schools will be required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons.

From August 2024, the fine for unauthorised school absences across the country will be **£80 per parent if paid within 21 days**, or **£160 if paid within 28 days**. Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action, such as a parenting order or prosecution, will be considered. If prosecuted, a fine of up to £2,500 could be given.

## Lockdown Practice Reminder

During the summer term we intend to talk through our lockdown procedure with students in tutor groups. This is to provide information to students in the highly unlikely event of an emergency lockdown situation occurring at school.

## Summer Term Events and Key Dates

Monday 15 April		Start of Term 5
Monday 15 April		Year 7 and 8 Form Photographs
Thursday 18 April		Year 7 Parents' Evening (remote)
Wednesday 1 May	18:00	PTFA Meeting
Monday 6 May		Bank Holiday
Sunday 12 May		PTFA Car Boot Sale
Friday 24 May		End of Term 5
Monday 3 June		Start of Term 6
Mon/Tue 24/25 June		Sixth Form Induction Days
Wednesday 26 June	18:30	Summer Concert (Sports Hall)
Friday 28 June		Sports Day
Sunday 30 June		PTFA Car Boot Sale
Wednesday 3 July		Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
Monday 8 July - Friday 12 July		Year 10 World of Work Week
Monday 8 July - Friday 12 July		Year 12 Work Experience Week
Tuesday 9 July		Lower School Showcase (Drama Hall)
Saturday 13 July	11:00 - 15:00	School Uniform Sale (Sports Hall)
Sunday 14 July		PTFA Car Boot Sale
Tuesday 23 July		End of Term 6

## Faculty Focus: Scientific Studies

Scientific Studies comprises the three scientific subjects of biology, chemistry and physics, and whilst all staff specialise in one of these areas, all teach across the three subjects. All of the Scientific Studies teachers are passionate about their subject and are delighted that so many students enjoy studying science and aspire to follow careers in STEM-related subjects. Many former students have become engineers, doctors, dentists, environmental scientists and have followed many more exciting career pathways.

We are pleased to be soon welcoming a number of female ex-students who are currently studying physics and Earth sciences at university. Our visitors will talk to younger students about following careers in STEM subjects and about their experiences of university life.

### Chemistry

We recently hosted two visiting STEM ambassadors who ran a workshop on nuclear chemistry. It was an outstanding afternoon and gave our Sixth Form chemists a real insight into working in the nuclear industry.

Sixth Form students also took part in the annual Chemistry Olympiad. There were some extremely strong performances in the round one paper. Well done to all involved, including gold award winner Caleb Byrne.



In January, a team of four Lady Manners' Chemists represented Derbyshire at the East Midlands Regional Final of the Royal Society of Chemistry 'Top of the Bench' competition. The competition involved University Challenge style questioning, and a practical challenge, testing their all-round Chemistry skills and knowledge. Our students finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall, narrowly failing to qualify for the national final. Nevertheless, an excellent achievement when competing with schools across the entire East Midlands region.

### Physics



Recently, sixty Year 10 Physics students took part in a space physics masterclass delivered by the National Space Academy on the theme of asteroids. The session, which included demonstrations of whoosh rockets and an analysis of the recent NASA DART mission, culminated in students making and firing their own oxygen and hydrogen fuelled mini-rocket. Students also had the opportunity of seeing and trying on an astronaut's helmet and pressure suit that had been worn in space.

Extra-curricular work completed by physics students in Year 12 for the IRIS ATLAS Big Data project led to some of the work being published in the European Journal of Physics. Well done to everyone who took part in this event. An incredible achievement!

### Biology

The Rutland Wetland project is being led by Dr Lennard (Curriculum Leader for Biology) and involves the re-wilding of an unmanaged piece of ground on the school site. As the Rutland Wetland project progresses, we hope to increase local biodiversity by growing hedging and a wildflower meadow. We also have plans for a wildlife pond. Our students have already started benefiting from this project through learning about biological survey techniques as part of their lessons. We are grateful for the support of the Woodland Trust for the donation of saplings and the Peak District National Park Communities Small Grants Scheme for providing funding towards the cost of seating.



We wish you all a safe and enjoyable Easter break and we look forward to seeing students again on Monday 15 April.

Mr Peat  
Headteacher  
Lady Manners School

