



Lady Manners School

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 5 Summer Term 2024

I would like to begin this newsletter by sending our best wishes to students who are currently taking their examinations. We are proud of the way they have worked during the lead up to the exams and their preparations have been robust and committed. Intervention lessons across a wide range of subjects have been well-attended and students appear fully focussed on performing to their best ability.

This is always a pressurised time for students taking examinations and I would like to thank parents and carers for their support in ensuring this period runs smoothly. Students are well-placed to fulfil their potential and are looking forward to progressing to the next stage of their education.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our excellent staff who have consistently offered additional lessons, tutorials and advice to our students throughout the year. Our recent Easter revision sessions proved very popular and the detailed preparation has provided an excellent platform for students to succeed.

So, to all our fabulous students - good luck, keep working hard and remember, you have a very long summer to recover!

We look forward to seeing students again to celebrate their successes when outcomes are published over the summer. A reminder that results days are scheduled for the following days:

A Level / AS Level / Level 3 VTQs: **Thursday 15 August**
GCSE / Level 1/2 VTQs: **Thursday 22 August**

Duke of Devonshire Visit



We were delighted to welcome the Duke of Devonshire to Lady Manners School last week.

During the visit, the Duke and I held discussions regarding strengthening our existing links and exploring potential new partnership opportunities.

The Duke kindly agreed to extend his offer of prizes to our students, including an environmental reward, and he is looking forward to working on new collaborative projects in the future.

Research Project

A group of A Level students has been working on the Institute for Research in Schools project ('DNA Origami') over the past two years. Students learned that DNA is not just a biological molecule but, by manipulating its self-folding properties, this fascinating material can be used to make many shapes which could be useful in medicine and beyond.

In Year 12, the students learned to use a computer programme to research and design molecules, such as heart replacement valves and drug delivery "boxes" made out of DNA. They represented Lady Manners by delivering both oral and poster presentations to researchers and peers at the University of Leeds and at the IRIS conference in Manchester. In Year 13, students carried out the actual practical work involving intricate pipetting techniques to make "smiley face" shapes from DNA. All of the materials and equipment was supplied by the Bragg Institute, University



of Leeds, for which we are very grateful. The samples were sent off to The Bragg Institute to be analysed on an Atomic Force Microscope. We are delighted to announce that all three groups were successful in their endeavours. Well done to all involved!

Young Enterprise



Congratulations to the Year 12 Young Enterprise Team, 'Homely Hippo', who were runners up in the Regional Finals of the competition at Leicester City Hall.

The team impressed the judges with their business knowledge when interviewed and with an excellent business presentation to a full audience of people.

The standard of the competition was of a national level. An outstanding achievement for our budding entrepreneurs.

Residential Trip

At the end of April, a mix of Year 8, 9 and 10 girls travelled to Osmington Bay to take part in a residential sports trip. The visit consisted of netball and rugby fixtures, an afternoon of zip wire and rifle shooting, walks along the beach, and games of rounders.

We are proud of how well the girls conducted themselves, their active participation in all aspects of the residential and the entertainment they provided for staff!



Spelling Bee Competition

Three of our students who are studying German took part in the Foreign Language Spelling Bee Regional Finals at Nottingham University on 8 May.

All three performed exceptionally well and earned their place at the National Finals on 1 July at Cambridge University.

What a great achievement! Many congratulations, and we look forward to hearing of further successes before the end of the academic year.



House Competition

House events continue to generate high levels of interest as students from all year groups participate enthusiastically across a range of activities.

Recently, students brought the house dance competition back to Lady Manners School. Since January, students of all ages have worked together in their respective houses to create a dance around the theme of 'Hollywood'. Students performed to a high standard and were judged on skill, performance quality and choreographic content. Some students hadn't danced before and the opportunity for all students to be able to thrive, with the help of a qualified Dance teacher, was an important factor in bringing House Dance back.

The performances were judged by a range of staff and an invited audience.

Glossop House won the competition and the points they earned will go towards the Wrench Shield, which will be presented to the winning House in a special assembly at the end of the school year.



Mobile Phones and Smart Watches: REMINDER

The Government 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.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, 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 after the half-term break.

We thank you for your ongoing support with this issue.

Advance Notice: Final Day of Term - Early Closure

We will be finishing school slightly earlier than usual on the final day of the academic year (Tuesday 23 July 2024). Lessons will run as normal throughout the morning, before our final end-of-year assembly is held after lunch. Students will be free to leave at 2.30pm following this assembly.

As well as ensuring a smooth end to the academic year, this early closure will enable staff to deliver farewell speeches to a number of colleagues who are retiring after many years of distinguished service at our school.

Transport companies have been informed of this change and buses will arrive at school at this earlier time to collect students. You will be notified in advance of any adaptations to the timings of individual routes.

Faculty in Focus: English and Media Extra-curricular Activities

Debating Club meets every Tuesday lunchtime and is open to students in all year groups. The students discuss the topics that matter to them and the teachers help them to devise suitable questions. Students then have a week to research the topic before dividing into teams and debating the issue. Recently we have had lively debates about whether 'deepfakes' should be banned and if we should phase out nuclear reactors. We also stage a more light-hearted debate before we break up for the school holidays - we have previously debated whether people should have fake or real Christmas trees! At the end of the academic year, students in Years 8 and 12 have the chance to form teams of four to partake in the Rotary Club debating competition against Highfields. Last year Lady Manners Year 8 students won the Junior debate. There is a continued focus on oracy in the curriculum, and it's great to see students perfecting their skills through high-quality discussion and debate.

Peacock Press

A small group of dedicated budding journalists meet regularly under the watchful eye of Mrs VonGyer to produce the Peacock Press. This digital newspaper is sent to all form groups each half-term, and includes information about

school achievements and house news, as well as 'book of the month', topical stories and puzzles. New volunteers from any year group are welcome to join and develop their reporting skills.

We have run a **Creative Writing Club** at Lady Manners for sixteen years, and it is an excellent forum for students from all year groups to experiment with their creative ideas. They are able to write in many different genres without being 'marked' or critiqued. Students work together to explore different genres such as science-fiction, gothic horror or mystery. Every week, we give students a written prompt that they can write to if they choose. Students are encouraged to share their writing with the group in a non-critical, appreciative environment. We enter poetry and short-story writing competitions throughout the year, and many students are now published authors in anthologies produced from the competitions.

Every year, we collaborate with Bakewell Methodist Academy on their creative writing competition. Our students spend an afternoon reading through the entries and judge the stories in different age categories; we then attend an evening event at Bakewell Methodist Academy where our students read out the winning entries, alongside their own stories. This is always an enjoyable event and helps to strengthen our connections with our local community.



Media

We are delighted to be introducing **Film Studies** as an option subject for our Year 10 students from September 2024. The first group of students will enjoy studying a range of exciting films and there is also a creative side to the course as they will make a short film which will contribute to their final grade.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 3 June		Start of Term 6
Wednesday 19 June	18:00	PTFA AGM
Monday/Tuesday 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. School closes at 14:30

We wish you all a safe and enjoyable half term break and we look forward to seeing students again on Monday 3 June.

Mr Peat
Headteacher
Lady Manners School

