



# Lady Manners School

## Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 6 Summer Term 2024

As we approach the end of a successful academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank students, staff, governors, parents and carers for their continuing support of Lady Manners School.

It has been well-publicised that there are currently a number of significant challenges within education. School funding, external accountability, and recruitment have featured heavily in education news for a considerable time, and although we have successfully adapted our approaches and ways of working, we are certainly not immune to the issues that are affecting many schools at a national and local level.

Since my last newsletter, a general election has taken place and a new Labour government has come into power. Key education policies are sure to follow and we await to hear details of plans which will shape the future learning of students across all sectors of the teaching profession.

### **Examinations 2024**

Congratulations to all students who have recently completed their summer examinations. Students put a great deal of effort into their preparations and revision classes were consistently well-attended. Results will now be eagerly awaited and we look forward to joining our students in celebrating their successes on Thursday 15 August (A Level and Level 3) and Thursday 22 August (GCSE and Level 1/2).

### **Transition Events (Year 6 and Year 11)**

During this term, we held a number of transition and induction events for our students. We are pleased that a large number of our Year 11 students have made the decision to join our Sixth Form, and we will soon be welcoming our new Year 7 students from over fifty different primary schools in September.

Year 6 students have already visited us on a number of occasions. They are now becoming increasingly familiar with the larger secondary school environment and this will help prepare them for their arrival in the new academic year.

Year 11 students spent two induction days in school preparing for their progression into the Sixth Form. They experienced taster lessons in their chosen subjects and gained an understanding of the varied additional opportunities available to them as a Sixth Form student. We look forward to seeing our students again at the start of the new academic year and also to welcoming external students who will be joining us from other schools in September.

### **School Officer Interviews**

Congratulations to Laurie Cooke and Lucy Walker who have been appointed as Senior School Officers for the 2024-25 academic year. Congratulations also to Tilly Copley, Caitlin McCloy, Ben Priest and Charlotte Tozer who have been appointed as Deputy School Officers. We look forward to working closely with the team from September and hearing new ideas which will benefit students from across all year groups.

### **School Concert and Sports Day**

We were pleased to see students perform at our summer music concert this term. The varied programme enabled our younger students to showcase their musical talents and to perform in front of a live audience, some for the first time. Our annual Sports Day proved to be an

outstanding event. Students competed in house teams in pursuit of the Wrench Shield and were ably supported by staff house presidents. The weather held throughout the day and athletes performed enthusiastically across a wide range of athletic activities.

### **Art and Textiles Exhibition**

As part of the work of our Creative Arts Faculty, we were delighted to host our annual art and textiles exhibition on 11 July. Many of the items on display have been submitted as part of GCSE and A level coursework and the event enabled our students to talk through their ideas and receive feedback from a range of visitors.

### **International Trips**



Students have enjoyed a number of international trips over recent weeks, including a Year 9 German trip to the Rhineland, a Year 9 History trip to France and Belgium, a Year 10 French trip to Normandy and a Year 10 German exchange.

As usual, students were impeccably behaved and we have received compliments from members of the public. I have no doubt that students will have learned a great deal and will have acquired memories that will last a lifetime.

### **World of Work Week**

Last week presented our Year 10 students with an excellent insight into the world of work and this event certainly focussed minds on potential future career pathways. Students experienced a range of stimulating activities, including mock interviews and careers-based workshops led by over twenty different employers. The employers were impressed with the application and resilience of our students.

### **Year 12 Work Experience**

Congratulations to Year 12 students who have recently completed their work experience placements. We have received positive feedback from placement hosts and students have appeared to make the most of their ventures into the world of employment. Placements were diverse, including professions such as dentistry, engineering and law. One student even enjoyed an international placement in Germany!

### **Lockdown Practice**

We held our first lockdown practice this term which highlighted the actions required in the event of a real-life incident occurring at school. Students were briefed on the difference between a 'soft' and a more serious 'hard' lockdown, and were made familiar with the distinctive lockdown warning bell (ten short rings). The practice proved to be a useful exercise and improvement suggestions will now be analysed to further develop our emergency procedures.

### **Mobile Phones and Smart Watches**

DfE guidance advises that schools should develop a mobile phone policy that prohibits the use of mobile phones throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime. We have strengthened our own mobile phone policy which has already been sent to parents and carers to deter students from using their phone during the school day. From September, this advice has been extended to smart watches, which have similar functionality to mobile phones.

### **Staffing News**

At the end of this academic year, we will be saying farewell to a number of long-serving colleagues. These include retirees Russell Mason, John Carpenter and Roger Lennard, who have been with us for a collective period of 70 years! I am sure you will join me in wishing them

all the very best for the future.

Our best wishes also go to staff who are leaving us to take on new roles at new schools or in different professions.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Post</b>
Miss Boden	Teacher of Science
Mr Carpenter	Curriculum Leader for Computing
Mrs Clarke	Teacher of Art
Mr Dowsett	Teacher of PE
Dr Lennard	Curriculum Leader for Biology
Mr Lewis	Teacher of Mathematics
Mr Mason	Director of Learning
Mr Minar	Teacher of Mathematics
Mrs Sainsbury	Cover Supervisor/Teacher of Science
Mrs VonGyer	Teacher of English

### **New Staff Arrivals in September**

We have made a series of excellent appointments over the spring and summer terms and look forward to welcoming new colleagues from the start of the new academic year.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Post</b>
Mr Bawden	Curriculum Leader for RE/PDS
Ms Bell	Director of Learning for English and Media
Mr Bunton	Teacher of Maths
Mr Garfield	Teacher of Science
Mr Glynn-Reeves	Teacher of Languages
Mr Gregory	Teacher of Maths
Miss Henderson	Curriculum Leader for Biology
Mr Russell	Teacher of Computing
Mr Sanigar	Curriculum Leader for PE
Mrs Taylor	Teacher of English
Miss Thorp	Teacher of Maths
Miss Walter	Teacher of Languages

### **PTFA**

We would like to express our thanks to our PTFA team for their tireless work in raising funds for our school. We are appreciative of their efforts in raising money to benefit the students in our school. Varied activities have been held throughout the academic year, including social events and car boot sales.

Through the work of this group, we will be erecting a new shelter over the summer which will be located adjacent to our main hall. This has been purchased by way of a generous PTFA donation and will make a huge difference to our students, particularly during breaks and lunchtimes. The shelter will also help to provide an enhanced experience for parents, carers and students who attend school events.

## Early School Closure

A reminder that the school will be closing slightly earlier than normal on our final day of the academic year (2.30pm).

School will re-open to new Year 7 and Year 12 students on Friday 6 September following two days of staff training. Students from all year groups will return to school on Monday 9 September.

## Term Dates for 2025-26

The approved term dates for 2025-26 are on our website. Please click [here](#) for further details.

## FACULTY FOCUS: GLOBAL STUDIES

As part of our faculty-wide 'Sound & Vision' project, Key Stage 3 students have enjoyed hearing extracts from books, selected by staff across our three curriculum areas. During June, we also examined how the three curriculum areas are connected through music and sustainable Mardi Gras celebrations across Europe.

## Geography

Congratulations to the 'Barker' house team who won the annual Geography House Quiz. Teams from across Years 7-9 competed against each other (and the clock) to complete a range of rounds, including landmark recognition, map skills and country flags.



400 students have been learning outdoors this term. Year 10 students investigated whether the River Burbage fits the theoretical model, Year 7 students applied their map skills in the countryside, and Year 12 students were trained in fieldwork skills for their independent investigations.

'No Mow May' came to Lady Manners in a collaboration between our Geography Club and the Premises Team. Numerous grass areas were left untouched to support pollinators, improve carbon sinks and improve biodiversity.

## History

In addition to enjoying an increasingly broad curriculum, including new lessons on subjects such as Ming Dynasty China and the Cold War in South-East Asia, students have benefited from a number of enrichment activities this year. We have had visitor inputs into the curriculum area, including a talk for Year 12 students about History-related subjects at university and high-level apprenticeships in Law. Clubs have continued to thrive, including music clubs, darts club, and the Key Stage 3 history club.

Year 7 students visited All Saints Parish Church in Bakewell to study its architectural features and the role of the church and religious worship in the Middle Ages. A number of Year 10 and Year 12 students visited Chester and Conwy, with a focus on the reigns of William the Conqueror and Edward I.



The most significant new enrichment activity was the Year 9 visit to the First World War Battlefields in Belgium and in France. Students were struck by the individual cost of the Great War and the scale of the impact it had on communities and loved ones at home. They were particularly moved by laying a wreath at the grave of former Lady Manners student, George Holmes, one of twenty-nine former students and teachers of our school who were lost during the First World War.

## **Modern Foreign Languages Multi-Lingual Competition Fever**

We recently challenged Year 7 students to take part in the Foreign Spelling Bee competition. It is very nerve-wrecking to learn one hundred words and phrases AND spell them in front of your peers in the fastest possible time. Students developed new-found resilience alongside their language skills. After the inter-form competition, the three students with the highest scores were invited to compete in the regional finals at Nottingham University in May. Our students secured second and third place, qualifying for the finals at Cambridge University. Just 96 students made the final from 17,904 who started the competition. Our students performed exceptionally well!



In Year 8, the competition turns to Translation Bee. This time, students have to translate in three tenses from English to the chosen language in front of peers. Again, three students attended the regional finals and all showed great courage to stand up in front of hundreds of other students and translate at speed.

We also held a Business Language Champions competition (students design a space hotel and present designs in French/German), took part in a GCHQ code-breaking competition and entered students for the 'Anthea Bell Translation Prize' run by Queen's College, Oxford. Students received certificates for their efforts and produced some highly creative pieces of work.

## **Reading Proficiency Programme**

Our Reading and Writing proficiency programme has been very popular with Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 students. Students volunteer to develop their learning further by choosing a book (in the target language) from our Languages Mini-Library. Reading at their own pace, they note down vocabulary and use a bilingual dictionary, then produce a short review, summary or piece of creative writing.

## **External Speakers**

As part of our cultural capital offering, we encourage students to learn more about the wider world and to use their language skills once they leave school. This year, we had guest speakers from Mingalaba and from Sanako UK Ltd. Year 11 students enjoyed an assembly and lunchtime football match with Steve Eadon, former Arsenal Football Club coach. Year 10 students took part in a workshop to produce a foreign-language match report, highlighting the opportunities a second language can bring. David Binns, UK Managing Director of Sanako (a Danish company) talked to Year 8 and Year 9 students about how languages help you to stand out and succeed in business.

## **Trips**

Alongside our trips to the Rhineland and Normandy, we have maintained our link with our partner school in Bamberg and once again held our Year 10 German Exchange. Students from Bamberg came to Bakewell in March, enjoying trips to Leeds and Liverpool. Our own students returned to Bamberg in July to experience life in a German school, and visited Nuremberg and Coburg which helped to deepen their knowledge of German history.

Thank you again for your continued support throughout the year. On behalf of all staff, I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Gary Peat  
Headteacher

