

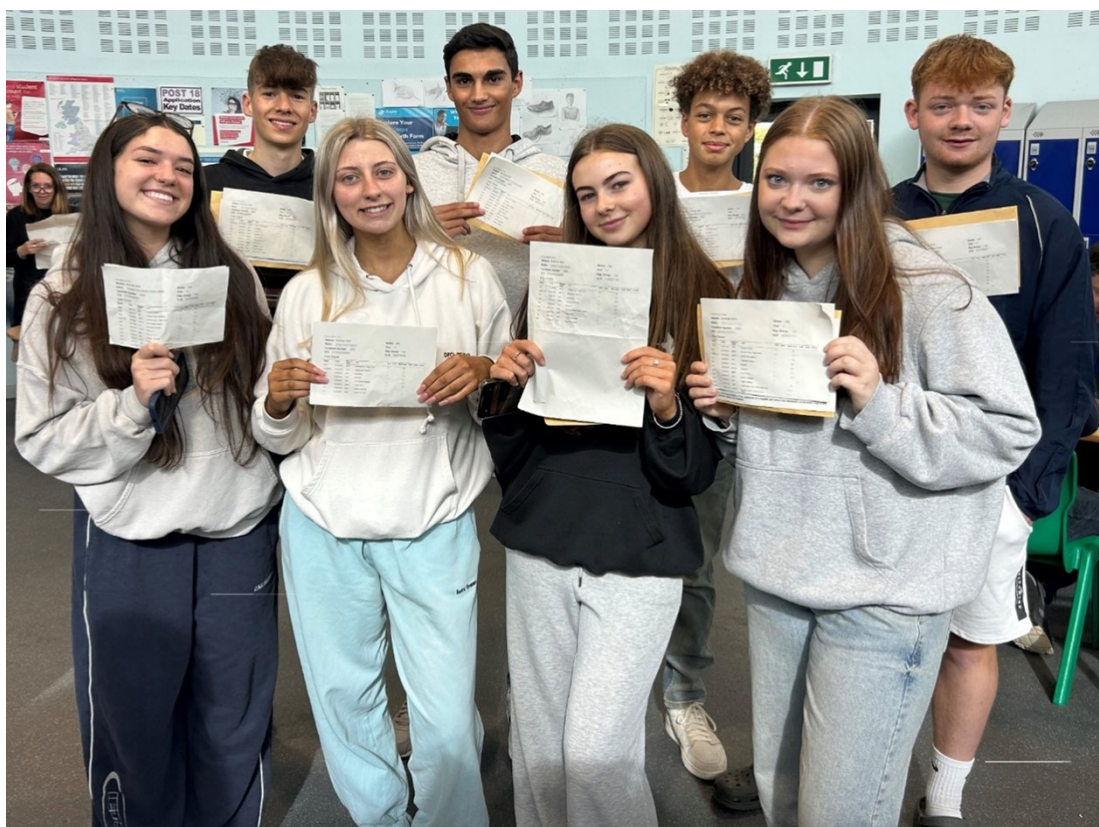
Lady Manners School

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 1 Autumn Term 2024

Record Results for Lady Manners Students!

Congratulations to all Year 11 and Year 13 students who sat their examinations during the summer. Year 11 students achieved the highest progress and attainment scores in the school's history, and should be proud of their achievements. These results make Lady Manners one of the top performing schools in Derbyshire, with outcomes significantly higher than national averages across all headline measures. We will be categorised as an 'Above Average' school when results are officially published within School Performance Tables in November. Congratulations to all students on their outstanding successes!



Many former Year 11 students have now joined our sixth form and have made an excellent start to their new post-16 courses. We wish them well as they begin their new qualifications. We also wish our former Year 13 students who have moved on to a range of high quality destinations every success for the future.

Year 7 Students

Congratulations to our new Year 7 students who have enjoyed an excellent start to life at their new secondary school. Students arrived at Lady Manners from over fifty different primary schools and have settled in very quickly. They have integrated well into their new working patterns and have adapted impressively to their new routines. It was pleasing to observe so many happy faces during our recent Year 7 'settling in' parents' evening as students excitedly showed their families around the school site.

School Rewards Trips



At the start of term, students from Years 8-13 enjoyed a rewards trip to Alton Towers. Students had a great time and not only benefited from cheaper September prices, but also from reduced queuing times. They also brought back some sizeable souvenirs! An alternative cinema and bowling trip and a Peak District walk were organised on the same day and enjoyed by all who attended.

We are currently discussing a new rewards scheme for students of all year groups, based on our ten school values. More details will follow later in the year.

School Production

Students have been rehearsing enthusiastically for our school production of 'Annie', which is scheduled to take place over three consecutive nights in November. Students have clearly enjoyed their time together and it has been pleasing to see so many year groups represented. The build up to a production is often an intense period, and I have been impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm shown by students. Thank you to all performers, supporting cast members and staff for their hard work. We look forward to the first show on Thursday 28 November (starting at 6.30 pm).



Advance Notice: Lockdown Practice

In the highly unlikely event of a serious incident occurring on our school premises, we have a lockdown procedure in place to protect our students and staff. This can be in the form of a 'soft' lockdown, or a more serious 'hard' lockdown. We intend to hold a practice drill before Christmas to talk through and, where appropriate, demonstrate the different scenarios. Students will be given prior warning of the practice and will be asked for feedback to further improve our procedures.

Open Evening

Thank you to all families who recently attended our Year 6 Open Evening. We were delighted to see so many prospective students at the event, who were supported by our excellent guides. Families visited a range of curriculum areas and participated in numerous events which provided a snapshot of what it is like to be a student at Lady Manners School. A particular well done to Year 7 student, Lenny, who gave an inspiring speech during the Headteacher talks in the Main Hall. The deadline for applications for September 2025 entry into secondary schools is 31 October and we look forward to receiving applications from students across a wide range of primary schools.

School Officers



Congratulations to our team of Year 13 School Officers who have made an excellent start to the academic year. All are adapting well to their new roles and are being proactive in their decision-making. As well as representing the school at events throughout the year, the team will also be tasked with organising a ceremony to open a time capsule, which was buried near the school pond in April 2000. The capsule contains a variety of items that reflect this period and we wait with anticipation to discover the contents during the planned ceremony in April next year.

Attendance

Raising attendance is a key priority of our school. Attendance rates have improved significantly over recent years and we are delighted that figures are returning to pre-pandemic levels. We continue to encourage parents and carers to ensure that their child achieves maximum possible attendance throughout the year. In particular, we urge you to avoid taking holidays during term-time as this will invariably result in a fine being issued.

Commemoration Service



Our annual Commemoration Service was held on Thursday 17 October at Bakewell Church. This event commemorated the life of our school founder, Grace, Lady Manners. A number of readings preceded a talk by Canon Tony and the service was impressively supported by our school choir.

This is always a fabulous occasion and, as usual, our students behaved impeccably in getting to and from the church.

Summer School 2024

We were delighted to welcome over forty of our new Year 7 students to the Summer School Programme in August. It was a great opportunity for them to participate in fun activities, such as drama, rounders, and a 'Creating the Dragon' task. The event was enjoyed by all who attended and enabled students to make new friends and familiarise themselves with the school environment. The staff also appreciated the chance to get to know our new starters.

Spotlight on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Carsington Water



In June, Bakewell Rotary Club provided an opportunity for our students to spend the day at Carsington Water. During a fun-filled day, students were able to learn new skills, work in teams and sail in four different types of boats.

They all had an excellent day!

SEND Informal Drop-in Surgery Event

Our Learning Support team are keen to meet the parents and carers of the students we have in our care and one way to do this is via our drop-in sessions.

We held our first informal drop-in surgery of the academic year earlier this month for the parents and carers of our new Year 7 students with SEND. It was a well-attended event and provided an opportunity for our staff to meet the parents and carers of our SEND students.

Staff attending the event included Mrs Wilson (SEND Co), Mrs Lejambale (SEND Manager) and our team of dedicated and hard-working Teaching Assistants. Strategies and support were discussed during the surgery, and information was shared about each child's learning and aspirations. It was a valuable opportunity for all involved and we are looking forward to holding more of these events throughout the year for all year groups.

Dyslexia Awareness Month

This month we have been raising awareness of dyslexia across our school.

Dyslexia is a learning disability affecting up to 10% of the population. At Lady Manners School, we are proud to continue the good practice developed during our journey to achieving the Dyslexia Friendly Schools Award in 2018. Our strategies include: peer support programmes, assistive technology, teacher training, parent and community engagement and classroom strategies. By fostering an inclusive environment, our students with dyslexia are able to thrive both academically and socially.



Autumn Term Events / Key Dates for your diary

Wednesday 20 November	16:30	Sixth Form Open Evening
Friday 22 November		Staff Inset Day
Monday 25 November - Friday 6 December		Year 11 Mock Examinations
Wednesday 27 November	18:00	PTFA Meeting (Meeting Room 3)
Thursday 28 November		Years 7-11 Flu Vaccinations
Friday 29 November	18:30	School Production of 'Annie'
Saturday 30 November	18:30	School Production of 'Annie'
Thursday 28 November	18:30	School Production of 'Annie'
Wednesday 4 December	16:00	Year 13 Online Parents' Evening
Monday 9 December	16:00	Year 9 Online Parents' Evening
Wednesday 11 December	18:00	Carol Service, Bakewell Parish Church
Thursday 12 December		Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 16 December	18:00	School Christmas Concert
Wednesday 18 December	18:00	Presentation Evening
Friday 20 December		End of Term
Monday 6 January		Staff Inset Day
Tuesday 7 January		Start of Term for all students

PTFA Fundraising



Thank you to the PTFA for their fabulous efforts in raising funds for our school. This has enabled us to purchase an outdoor shelter which was erected over the summer. The shelter is used regularly by students from all year groups and will also be used by wider members of our school community during events and performances.

To support the current fundraising venture, please register for a virtual balloon race, which begins on 26 October. Use the link for further information: www.balloonrace.net/lmsp

Staff Training Day

A polite reminder that we will be holding a staff training day on Monday 4 November. Students will therefore return to school on Tuesday 5 November for the start of the new term.

In the meantime, I wish you all a relaxing half-term break.

Mr Peat
Headteacher

