



Lady Manners School

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 2 Autumn Term 2024

Introduction

We have enjoyed a busy term in the lead up to Christmas. Many students have taken part in whole-school events and participated in a range of internal and inter-school activities. I continue to be impressed by the positive attitude shown by our students and by their high levels of achievement, both in and out of school.

Sixth Form Update

We held our Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 20 November. There was an excellent turnout from both our own students and from visitors from other schools, who braved very cold weather conditions to attend the event. Families received introductory talks from myself and Head of Sixth Form, Mr Evans, before visiting curriculum areas to find out more about the comprehensive range of post-16 courses offered for the next academic year. Our Sixth Form booklet can be found [here](#).

Remembrance Service

We held our annual Remembrance Service on Monday 11 November. As usual, this was a poignant service which was impeccably observed by students across all age groups. This year we remembered former student, Kenneth Sylvester, who sadly died in April 1940 during a flight over Norway during the Second World War. Kenneth was a member of the Royal Air Force and attended Lady Manners in the early 1930s.

I would like to particularly thank one of our history teachers, Mr Roberts, who led a series of assemblies to commemorate our former students. These assemblies were both emotional and thought-provoking.

Carol Service and Christmas Concert

Congratulations to all students who participated in the Nine Lessons and Carols Service at Bakewell Parish Church and in our School Christmas Concert.

Students performed exceptionally well during both events. The school choir and musicians were outstanding during the Nine Lessons and Carols Service and the readers did an excellent job, including a number of our youngest pupils.

The Christmas Concert proved to be a fun-filled evening. Performances were of an extremely high standard and it is clear that students enjoyed performing in such a great atmosphere. The large audience was treated to performances from the 'Big Orchestra', junior and senior choirs, the flute and clarinet choirs, a brass ensemble, senior strings and our outstanding jazz band. We now look forward to our Spring Concert in March and our Easter Concert in April.

Presentation Evening



Our Presentation Evening was very well-attended and enabled the school to recognise the outstanding academic achievements of both current and former students. The results from the 2024 examination series were celebrated and students fully deserved the accolades that were showered upon them. Our guest speaker, James Wallace, gave an eloquent and humorous speech recollecting his time at Lady Manners School.

Thank you to our student band, 'Spacious Days', who provided musical entertainment during the evening.

Examination Results

Following a national delay due to 'technical errors', the DfE finally published School Performance Tables on Thursday 5 December. We are delighted that our outstanding summer results are now publicly available and students should be proud of their achievements. We have been confirmed as one of the top performing schools in the county across a range of headline measures. The school achieved an outstanding Key Stage 4 Progress 8 score of 0.38, which classifies Lady Manners School as an 'above average' school. I would encourage all parents and carers to visit the DfE website which also provides national and local comparisons (<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/>).

Well done also to current Year 11 students who recently completed their mock examinations. This period presented an ideal opportunity for students to familiarise themselves with formal examination conditions and to get used to systems and procedures that will apply throughout the summer. Year 13 students will sit their mock examinations during the first two weeks of next term and a number of students will also be taking national vocational examinations during this period. Good luck to all involved.

Careers

We are delighted to have appointed our new Careers Leader, Mrs Bortoli, to work alongside Mr Pacey, our longstanding Careers Advisor.

Careers guidance is an important part of our personal development curriculum and is enhanced through a variety of experiences and opportunities designed to support students in their decision making around future pathways and careers.

This term, students across the school have engaged in a range of career activities from one-to-one career meetings, celebrating Green Careers Week and listening to external speakers about their jobs, college courses and higher degree apprenticeships, to learning about the world of work and how work may change in the future. We were also fortunate to have a visit from a previous student who spoke to Year 13 about his apprenticeship with Rolls Royce.

From time to time, you will see careers announcements on ClassCharts and we have also updated our careers section on the [website](#) to support you as parents and carers with your child's career and further study choices. A useful toolkit for parents and carers is <https://www.talkingfutures.org.uk/>

We welcome questions and feedback at: Careers@ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk

GCHQ Outreach Lesson December 2024

Three of our Year 10 classes had a surprise last Monday when language analysts from GCHQ joined them via a 'Teams' meeting during their lesson.

Students learned about some of the types of work undertaken by the organisation and the importance of language skills to the security of our country.

Each language group received information from an exchange of text messages and raced against other schools using a Caesar cipher key to decode the enciphered words and to work out the message in French or German. The information was further disguised by substituting 'everyday' French or German vocabulary for words with a more malevolent meaning.

The German group were tasked with finding intelligence from encrypted text messages in German to prevent a terrorist attack and the French group worked in a similar way to gather the details of a major drug shipment.

We are pleased to say that both threats to national security were averted! Our students cracked the codes, put their knowledge of French and German to good use and discovered the time and place for each event.

House Events

Congratulations to all students who have participated in house events this term. A competitive rivalry has developed over the last few years as students attempt to gain house points. Students represent one of four houses: Barker, Cockerton, Glossop and Taylor, and take part in a wide variety of activities during the school year, including a large-scale cross-country event and our annual Sports Day. Points are collated and at the end of the year the winning house is presented with the Wrench Shield. Current projections suggest that the Shield will be closely contested this year and all individual points could be influential in determining the victorious house.

Rewards System

Following feedback from students and staff, there are going to be some changes to the rewards that students receive. From January, students will be given reward points in the 10 school values (Achievement, Aspire, Community, Curiosity, Empathy, Include, Integrity, Positivity, Perseverance and Thrive), as well as the rewards for effort, participation and good work. This is intended to embed the school values into all we do at Lady Manners. If a student manages to collect reward points in all 10 values, they will be rewarded with a prize and a postcard home, look out for them. We will also be rewarding students for consistent high attendance, from January each week students will receive 5 reward points from their form tutor if they have 100% attendance and only positive rewards in the previous week. All the reward points collected can then be spent in the Reward shop which is open at lunchtime and accessed via ClassCharts. These changes are intended to reward our students who are consistently "doing the right thing", attending regularly, engaging in lessons and demonstrating the school values.

School Trips

We are delighted that so many of our curriculum areas are offering students a range of trips and experiences throughout the school year. This term, students in different year groups have had the opportunity to travel to museums and galleries in London and Manchester, complete fieldwork in Liverpool, see live theatre, visit the Holocaust Centre in Derby, spend part of a day with Longcliffe Quarries Ltd, attend a Knitting and Stitching show and they have also experienced visiting speakers for higher education and a geography masterclass. This is just a sample of some of the events that have taken place.

We aim to provide as many different experiences for students as possible and we are grateful to the staff who volunteer to support these events. As you can imagine, the organisation around a trip is extensive and we would like to politely remind parents and carers that deadlines for payments and consent forms must be adhered to. As we move forward, we will be unable to accept changes after the trip application deadline has passed. Thank you in advance for your support.

Links With the Community

Chatsworth

I met with Lord Burlington recently to discuss potential links between the Chatsworth Estate and Lady Manners School. Lord Burlington is very committed to working in partnership with our school and is genuinely keen to improve the educational experiences of our students.

A significant number of potential subject links were discussed during the visit. We agreed that an initial focus should be on our student farming community and also on enhancing cultural capital opportunities for our students. Further potential links were discussed in relation to history, languages, media studies and drama.

Looking ahead, there is likely to be a phased approach to developing collaborative work with different subjects and we look forward to an enduring and meaningful partnership with the Chatsworth Estate.

Longcliffe



Our Year 7 students took part in an event on Monday 18 November run by local company, Longcliffe Quarries Ltd, to raise awareness for National Road Safety Week.

The students gained a better understanding of how to stay safe and be seen on our roads. They were all able to sit in the lorry cabs so they could have a first-hand view of what our HGV drivers are able to see when they are driving. Each student received their own high visibility vest to take home and took part in a quiz to win further prizes from Longcliffe.

The day was enjoyed by all and the students' behaviour was exemplary. Thank you to Longcliffe Quarries Ltd for visiting our school.

Shutts Lane Safety Update

We are continuing to work with the Derbyshire County Council to implement safety measures on Shutts Lane to help ease congestion. Whilst we appreciate the difficulties in finding a space to park, please be mindful of our local residents, and, in particular, to respect the white 'keep clear' markings that have been installed on Shutts Lane. It is of paramount importance that access points remain unobstructed. We appreciate your continued support in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our students and the wider school community.

PTFA and Projects

A huge thank to all members of the PTFA who continue to work with such selfless enthusiasm to raise funds for our school. The group's commitment is having a positive impact, and both current and future students will benefit from their fundraising efforts for many years to come. The latest PTFA initiative of holding a 'Silent Auction' attracted considerable interest and the high quality of prizes on offer helped to generate significant funds for our school. The Auction raised £2,086 in total.

School Closure Due to Snow

As you will be aware, I took the decision to close the school on Tuesday 19 November due to the adverse weather in Bakewell and surrounding areas. Closing a school is one of the most difficult decisions any headteacher has to make. I am appreciative of the support offered by premises staff and bus companies in helping me to finalise decisions.

Although our strong preference is to keep the school open, the safety of our students and staff will always be prioritised. Any final decision regarding a school closure will take account of a range of factors, including site safety and travel to and from school, including staff commutes.

We are acutely aware of the unpredictability of the weather and the speed at which road conditions can deteriorate. We also realise that many of our students live in outlying villages where journeys can be precarious.

At Lady Manners, we usually only have two choices - either to close the school, or to remain open. A 'middle ground, for example a later school start, is often impractical due to the number of public bus services we use and the timetabling restrictions that re-routing presents.

In the event of a school closure, students will be set work remotely on ClassCharts during their normal lesson slots. Live lessons will be offered from the second day of a school closure to enable staff to prepare high quality materials. We fully appreciate your support in ensuring students complete all work and do not miss out on their learning.

Governance

I am pleased to inform you that following the recent parent governor election, Mark Taylor was re-elected to the role of Parent Governor and Robert Jones was elected as a new Parent Governor. Congratulations to them both.

Staffing

We say farewell to a number of staff this term who have all provided excellent service to Lady Manners School. We wish all our leavers the very best for the future.

Staff Leavers

Sara Clarke (Teacher of Art)
Lorna Colter (Early Help Manager)
Sarah Grimes (Science Technician)
Dan Howarth (Curriculum Leader for Music)
Nicola Templeman (Catering Team)

FACULTY IN FOCUS: CREATIVE ARTS (Mr M Doody, Director of Learning)

The Creative Arts Faculty has enjoyed an inspiring and dynamic term, with students and staff working together to create opportunities for students to thrive and aspire to new heights of achievement.

In lessons, staff and students have been embracing the "Creative Habits", bringing imagination, persistence, collaboration, discipline, and inquisitiveness to the forefront of every activity. These powerful habits are the driving force behind success across all areas of the Creative Arts Faculty.

By nurturing these qualities, students unlock their creative potential. These habits don't just enhance skills - they inspire students to be bold, active thinkers, ready to explore, experiment, and excel in every aspect of their creative journeys.

A shining example of the creative habits in action was the spectacular production of 'Annie', which brought together over one hundred students from across the school. This ambitious musical showcased not only the outstanding acting, singing, and dancing talents of our students, but also their dedication, imagination, and teamwork.

A key highlight was the live orchestra, composed of talented student musicians, whose disciplined and collaborative efforts brought the music to life with energy and precision. Their performances elevated the emotional depth of the show, perfectly complementing the on-stage action and creating a truly immersive experience for the audience. 'Annie' was a heart-warming story of resilience and hope, with every participant - from the exceptional lead roles to the chorus, orchestra, and backstage crew - playing a crucial part in its success.



Drama students have enjoyed a wide variety of experiences including a thought-provoking workshop with *'The Paper Birds'* and Theatre trips which included *'Wonderboy'* - an award-winning production and powerful story of resilience and the power of communication.

In early October, Year 11 Fine Art students embarked on an inspiring trip to Manchester, visiting the renowned Whitworth Gallery and Manchester Art Gallery. The visit included a powerful exhibition by the acclaimed artist Barbara Walker, part of our Black History Month activities. Students were encouraged to aspire to new creative heights as they explored a variety of artworks that sparked their imagination and deepened their artistic understanding.

Later in the term, Sixth Form Art students teamed up with DT and History students for an exciting early-morning journey to London. Their adventure included visits to the National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery, where they encountered masterworks that broadened their artistic horizons. A picturesque walk along the Thames led to the Tate Modern, offering contemporary pieces to challenge and inspire. The trip concluded with a vibrant meal in Chinatown, creating memories and fuelling their aspirations as they returned to Lady Manners School ready to thrive creatively.

In November, Textiles students attended the prestigious Knitting and Stitching Show in Harrogate, a highlight of the creative calendar. This incredible event included a wide array of textile artistry from leading designers, offering students a chance to see cutting-edge work first hand. The experience encouraged them to be bold, imaginative, and inquisitive in their own projects.

The Creative Arts Faculty continues to nurture and showcase the remarkable talents of Lady Manners School students, offering them opportunities to shine in a variety of artistic disciplines. It has been a term to remember, and we look forward to seeing even more creativity blossom in the coming months.

Key Events Planned for the Spring and Summer Terms

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday 15 January	4.00 pm	Year 10 Parents' Evening (Online)
Thursday 23 January	4.00 pm	Year 11 Parents' Evening (Online)
Tuesday 4 February	4.30 pm	Year 9 Options Evening (In School)
Thursday 6 March	6.30 pm	Spring Concert (Main Hall)
Monday 10 March	4.00 pm	Year 8 Parents' Evening (Online)
Wednesday 12 March	6.00 pm	PTFA Meeting
Tuesday 18 March	4.00 pm	Year 12 Parents' Evening (Online)
Thursday 27 March	4.00 pm	Year 7 Parents' Evening (Online)
Wednesday 2 April	6.30 pm	Easter Concert (Sports Hall)
Wednesday 25 June	6.00 pm	PTFA Meeting
Thursday 26 June	6.30 pm	Summer Concert (Main Hall)
Friday 27 June	All Day	Sports Day

Students will now be looking forward to a well-deserved Christmas holiday. We look forward to seeing them all again on Tuesday 7 January 2025, which follows a staff training day on Monday 6 January 2025.

On behalf of all staff, I wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing festive break.

G Peat
Headteacher



