

Lady Manners School

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 3 Spring Term 2025

As usual, students have been working enthusiastically this term and making the most of the opportunities presented to them. A significant number of events have been held, benefiting students from a range of age and ability groups. I would like to personally thank our teaching staff for giving up their spare time to plan and organise activities during lunchtimes, after school and at weekends.

The term started with very challenging weather conditions and all members of our school community should be commended on their efforts in travelling to and from school. Students and staff were resilient in ensuring the school remained fully functional throughout the week and this ensured a smooth start to the new term. Thank you to all parents and carers who helped to make this possible.

Ofsted Inspection (11-12 February)

As you know, we were visited by an Ofsted inspection team this week. This was an ungraded inspection to check if the school had taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their response to the Ofsted survey. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and your support was appreciated.

Students were excellent over the two days. Their contributions to the school were noticed by the inspection team, both within classrooms and during social times. The Lead Inspector commented on how much he had enjoyed his numerous conversations with students from all year groups, and how impressed he was with their knowledge of the school.

The Ofsted report will be received in 30 working days. Although we cannot officially announce our provisional outcome at this stage, we look forward to sharing the final report as soon as it is published.

Careers Update

This week, we have been excited to participate in National Apprenticeship week. In form time, students across all year groups learned about apprenticeships and debunked apprenticeship myths. You can watch some of the videos [here](#). This has been supported through lessons, where students have seen how apprenticeship opportunities link to the subjects they learn. They have been learning about everything from apprenticeships to support the environment and science advancements, to those involved in computing through the 'Games Arcade'.

On 'T Level Thursday', students watched a short video to understand their full range of options at post 16. This complemented an assembly earlier in the term on Apprenticeships and T Levels for Year 11 students from Chesterfield College.

This week, Buxton and Leek College visited us with their 'Big Yellow Bus' on to showcase Apprenticeships and T Levels. This was open to all students during lunchtime, as well as specific groups of students during Personal Development in the afternoon. The RAF visited us with a stall to showcase the excellent apprenticeship offerings they have and a group of Year 11 students are spending an afternoon working with a visitor from the DWP to support with interview techniques for their apprenticeship applications.



For more information regarding apprenticeships, you can visit the parent zone on the Amazing Apprenticeship website: [Parent - Amazing Apprenticeships](#).

Year 9 Options

Students in Year 9 have been selecting their preferred Level 2 courses for the start of the 2025/26 academic year. A number of events have taken place to help students make their important decisions, including an onsite options evening. Students were provided with an opportunity to visit a range of subjects and learn more about the available courses. This evening was preceded by a series of taster lessons, delivered by staff across a wide range of subjects. A reminder that the deadline to submit option choices is Friday 14 February.

NEC Exhibition

Our farming group visited an inspiring exhibition in Birmingham earlier this term. Students had a great time and acquired a significant amount of useful information from the trip. This was the first time an event such as this has taken place, and the school intends to organise additional activities for the group. Thank you to Miss Bontoft (Director of Learning for Computing and Technology) for leading the trip and for her continuing weekly meetings with our farming students. These meetings are often attended by members of our wider community, including a recent visit by Charlotte Allen who delivered an engaging talk on 'agronomy', a branch of agriculture that deals with field crop production and soil management.



Links with Chatsworth

I met with Lord Burlington recently to further discuss the developing educational partnership between the Chatsworth Estate and Lady Manners School.

A number of excellent opportunities have now been confirmed which will be of enormous benefit to our students. A planned day for our farming group will highlight working opportunities across the Estate and later in the year, our drama students are hoping to perform a show at the onsite theatre in the summer. A trip has also been arranged for some of our Year 7 students, which will involve a guided tour of Chatsworth House and an opportunity to experience the wide range of facilities on the site.

We look forward to forming a long-lasting partnership with Chatsworth and to extending the range of subject areas connected to the Estate.

Mock Examinations

Congratulations to Year 13 students who completed their mock examinations in January. This trial set of exams presented an excellent opportunity to consolidate knowledge and to identify learning gaps across all subjects. Following the success of last year, we again held a mock results day to enable Year 11 students to collect their mock grades. This year, we extended this celebratory occasion to our Year 13 students. Both events replicated the collection of final results and will no doubt motivate students to achieve strong outcomes in the summer.



Parents' Evenings

Thank you to all parents, carers and students who have attended parents' evenings this term. The remote format is now well established and the days of lining up in queues, patiently waiting to speak to a teacher, are now a distant memory. Feedback remains overwhelmingly positive regarding the format and structure of these events. A reminder that subject teachers may be contacted for follow-up discussions if required.

School Officers

Year 13 School Officers are currently planning an exciting event which will take place around the Easter period. 25 years ago, former Lady Manners students buried a Millennium time capsule, in a location adjacent to the school pond. Although mystery surrounds the exact contents of the capsule, our current School Officers are planning a ceremony to unlock the underground treasure trove. A further event will then be planned for current students to bury their own time capsule. The contents will be determined by the students and will reflect what life is like as a student at our school in 2025!

Staffing

Congratulations to Mr Mulholland who has been appointed as Curriculum Leader for Film and Media Studies. This post will begin from September 2025 and we look forward to exciting developments following the successful introduction of a GCSE Film Studies course this year.

Other appointments made this term include:

- Mr Sainsbury (Teacher of Mathematics)
- Mr Atkins (Curriculum Leader for Music)

We wish all appointees every success in their new roles.

Faculty Focus - Business and Mathematics

Year 7 Maths in the Real World of Business Project



During the summer term, Year 7 students had the opportunity to work in teams on our collaborative Business and Maths project. In their teams, the students designed an ice cream, considering the flavours and toppings for their target market. Logos and advertising for the target markets were designed and students calculated the profit their business would make over the summer months.

This year, the winning team in each form was invited to a 'winners' event' where they showcased their final posters to members of staff who voted to select the overall winners. Staff were impressed with the quality of the entries and the enthusiasm with which students explained their products and designs. This was an excellent early opportunity for students to be introduced to business which they will be able to study from Year 10.

Advanced Maths Support Programme (AMSP) links

During the summer term we ran two events in collaboration with the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme. A guest speaker from the AMSP delivered a session to our high attaining girls in Year 10, aiming to highlight careers utilising maths and promoting further study of maths at A Level and beyond.



Students in Year 7 participated in the 'Maths Summer Snack Challenge', working in teams on problem solving and logic tasks. The students really enjoyed this opportunity.

Engaging students with nature through using the school grounds to deliver the curriculum.



As part of its Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, the DfE has introduced the National Education Nature Park, in collaboration with the Natural History Museum and the Royal Horticultural Society. This park is made up of all the school grounds in the country. If all education settings in the country took part, a space **twice the size of Birmingham** would be created for wildlife to thrive in. The idea is to utilise school grounds to enable young people to get closer to nature, learn about it and improve their wellbeing, at the same time as giving nature the opportunity to thrive at a time when it is increasingly under threat.

Two maths classes used the school grounds as part of their learning about statistics. They worked in groups to collect data about heights of trees in the Rutland Wetland. Some of these had been planted a few months before, and some two years before. Students collated the data in grouped frequency tables and drew histograms to compare heights of younger and older trees. It created interesting discussions about the data, and students commented that they really enjoyed being outdoors. They concluded from their data that the trees are growing really well! The organisers of the National Education Nature Park were very impressed with the way Lady Manners has engaged with the school grounds within the Mathematics, Geography and Science departments, and have asked us to contribute to a national blog to inspire teachers across the country!

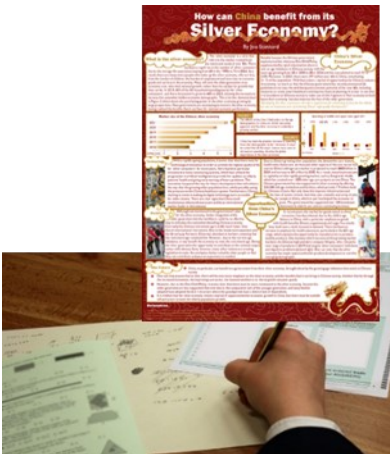
Year 13 Economist goes from strength to strength

Congratulations to Joseph in Year 13 who has entered different Economic Competitions to extend his knowledge of Economics.

For the St John's Academic Poster Competition, Joseph had to create poster on the theme of 'Silver'. His impressive poster titled 'How can China benefit from its Silver Economy?' was not only greatly researched but well-presented. It takes pride of place in the Business and Economics department.

Joseph also entered the Tutor2U economics essay competition. The daunting title was 'What is the biggest economic problem to solve?'. Not the easiest of question to answer for any economist! Joseph wrote an outstanding essay covering some of the most difficult current economic issues.

UKMT Maths Challenges



Last term several of our A Level Mathematicians took part in the Senior Maths Challenge run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT). These competitions are designed to develop students' problem-solving skills and depth of mathematical understanding. We had some outstanding results and two of our female students qualified to represent the school in follow-on rounds, which was a great achievement. This half term, 120 students from Years 9 and 10 have taken part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge and we are eagerly awaiting their results. We hope to take some teams of students to Team Maths Challenges during the remainder of the year, as well as entering the Junior Maths Challenge for Year 7 and 8 students.

Key Events Planned for the Spring and Summer Terms

Date	Time	Event
Thursday 27 February	AM	Year 11 and Year 13 Group Photographs
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 30 April	6.00 pm	PTFA Meeting
Sunday 8 June	7.00 am	PTFA Car Boot Sale
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 half-term break. We look forward to seeing them all again on Monday 24 February 2025.

G Peat
Headteacher

