



# Lady Manners School

## Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 4 Spring Term 2025

# Glowing Ofsted Report for Lady Manners School

First and foremost, I would like to thank all parents and carers for their supportive comments and feedback during our recent Ofsted inspection. As you know, this was an ungraded inspection which took place over two days on 11 and 12 February.

We have been planning for this significant event for a considerable amount of time and are delighted with the final report, which is now published on the Ofsted website (<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/23/112996>).



There are many highly positive comments contained within the report and the Ofsted team acknowledged that the school has made strong progress since our previous inspection. Inspectors found that we have 'exceptional' and 'exemplary' practice taking place across our school and we should all be very proud. As expected, the students were a great asset and were consistently praised by all members of the inspection

team. Students across all age groups played a pivotal role in securing the excellent outcome. They were open and transparent during discussions and inspectors were impressed with their perceptive comments about the school.

We have already created a post-Ofsted action plan in relation to the single action point raised in the report and have taken action to address the 'small pockets of inconsistency' identified by the inspection team.

The report highlights the school's caring and inclusive environment, high academic expectations, and strong personal development opportunities for pupils. Inspectors commented that there was a strong culture of safeguarding at our school.

Inspectors praised the school's broad and ambitious curriculum, the strong emphasis on reading, and the commitment to enriching pupils' experiences through a wide range of extracurricular activities.

The report also commended the school's work in supporting pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), ensuring that pupils' needs are met.

Amongst the many areas praised in the Ofsted report, inspectors noted:

- Pupils enjoy attending this welcoming and caring school.
- The school is calm and orderly.
- The school's work to promote pupils' broader development is exemplary.
- Most pupils' behaviour is exemplary.
- Pupils, including disadvantaged pupils, achieve exceptionally well in most subjects at key stage 4.
- Students in the sixth form perform highly in public examinations.
- Pupils have highly positive attitudes to learning.
- Pupils are exceptionally well-prepared for life in modern Britain.
- The school is well-led and managed.
- (Leaders) are determined that pupils benefit from the best possible education.

We are delighted to see the positive culture of our school community highlighted in the report and we thank you again for your support. We look forward to making further progress over the next few years to the continued benefit of all students.

## **Admissions**

Families were notified of offers for secondary school places on National Offer Day (03 March).

Lady Manners School will meet its Published Admission Number of 240 students for the new academic year. We are delighted that we continue to attract students from a wide geographical area and look forward to welcoming students from 52 different primary schools in September.

We have a range of induction activities planned for the summer term and students will be familiar with their new school ahead of their arrival later in the year. We are currently organising a schedule of visits to primary schools to meet the students who will be joining us in September. Two days of transition activities have been arranged for June and our Taster Day will take place on 2 July.

Year 7 students (along with Year 12 students) will start the new academic year on Monday 8 September. The rest of the school will return the following day, on Tuesday 9 September.

## **Student Success**

Congratulations to Year 9 student, Cody, who competed in the Lloyds Bank Cyclo-cross National Trophy Series 2024/25 Round 5 competition earlier this term and won the U14 Open Trophy.

Congratulations also to two of our Year 8 students, Matilda and Olivia, who won three first prizes between them at the 'David Clover Festival of Singing' recently. Both girls won a solo prize and each also won a prize for their duet.



Cody



Matilda and Olivia

### **Year 11 and Year 13 Exams**

Year 11 students recently completed their second set of mock examinations. Results have been analysed, and students have received detailed feedback to identify any gaps in their learning.

As you may be aware, there will not be a key stage four Progress 8 headline measure this year due to a lack of SATs baseline data. National data will therefore focus on attainment measures, such as the number of students achieving grades 4 or 5 in English and Maths. We look forward to the summer results being published on Thursday 21 August.

Year 13 students are continuing to work hard to secure the grades which will enable them to progress to their preferred post-18 destination. Results for our Sixth Form students will be published on Thursday 14 August.

Study leave dates have been confirmed as follows:

**Year 13** - a leaving assembly will be held at 11.30 am on Friday 9 May and students will leave school following the assembly

**Year 11** - following the morning examinations, a leaving assembly will be held on Friday 23 May. Students will be free to leave school at lunch.

Thank you to students who have signed up for the revision days that are being held during the upcoming Easter holiday across a wide range of Year 11 and Year 13 subject areas. Attendance at these events will benefit students enormously and will help them to achieve the best possible outcomes.

### **'Brilliant Books' Week**

We have recently introduced new rewards for students in school. The first one is for students who have 'brilliant books'. We have been reviewing students' books and folders and rewarding them on 'ClassCharts' for having well organised work that shows high effort levels and a commitment to improvement.

Senior leaders and Directors of Learning visited many lessons during the week commencing 17 March and saw lots of excellent work that students and staff are proud of. A huge well done to all students who were recognised for their high-quality books. We will continue to reward students who have 'brilliant books' in the coming months.

One of the other reward areas we have focussed on this year is promoting more active thinking in lessons.

This involves teachers giving students activities that enable them to analyse and question thoughts and ideas more deeply to encourage students to minimise any passive moments in their learning. Some students who are doing this particularly well are being rewarded by their teacher who will give them an "Active Thinker" lapel badge. Well done to all students who have already received their badge.

### **Easter Concert**

Congratulations to all students who performed in our Easter Concert earlier this week. Throughout the evening, the large audience watched a collection of outstanding performances from students across a range of age groups. During the event, we sadly said farewell to our excellent Year 13 musicians who will be leaving us in the summer. We wish them all well in their future musical careers.



### **Careers**

Following on from the successful National Apprenticeship Week in February, we celebrated National Careers Week this term.

During National Careers Week, students received a careers assembly with visiting speakers and careers support during extended form time. Over 100 students took the opportunity to drop into the 'Careers Café' with local employers. During the week we welcomed a local entrepreneur, owner of Long Bow Venues, a solicitor, the RAF, the National Horse Racing College, a veterinary lecturer, and a civil servant from the DWP who discussed local labour market information. We also showcased an 'inside the workplace and training academy' video, generously provided by Rolls Royce.

In extended form time, Years 7 to 11 developed skills for turning failure into success and Year 12 students started considering their different options for their next steps at post-18. Year 13 students have been working on finalising their finance applications for university and preparing for apprenticeship interviews.

Years 8, 9 and 10 students have also had an Apprenticeship and T Level assembly to help them to start thinking ahead about their different options beyond Year 11.

Year 12 students are currently working hard to secure their Work Experience placement for July. This is supported through a series of assemblies and webinars guiding the students through their options and which route (university, apprenticeship, employment) they may next take.

Looking ahead to the summer term, we have a visiting speaker scheduled who will share local Labour Market Information (LMI) and how that might shape careers decisions. We also have the very exciting 'World of Work' for our Year 10 students. To stay up to date, please keep an eye on ClassCharts and the school website, where we'll be sharing the latest opportunities and careers information.

### **Links with Chatsworth**

We continue to strengthen our links with the Chatsworth Estate. We held an onsite meeting with members of the Chatsworth team recently to finalise our collaborative plans for the summer. We aim to offer a visit to Chatsworth House for Year 7 students and are constructing a land-based day for our farming students.

In January, I travelled with a number of colleagues to visit the theatre at Chatsworth. Following this visit, students from a range of age groups are now planning to deliver a live performance at the venue in the summer. We look forward to this event which will be a highly memorable occasion and something that our students talk about for many years to come.

## **Farming Club**

Our Farming Club continues to go from strength to strength and we are proud of the additional activities that have been provided for this highly motivated group of students. Recently, sector-specific talks have been given to our farming club which have generated significant interest.

Our school nurses also visited the group to talk about rural health and to inform students about the health services available in the area. This gave students an opportunity to ask questions and find out more about vital community services.

## **Tree Planting**

During the term, members of the farming club volunteered to spend their lunchtime helping to plant trees in the school's woodland nature area. Students worked hard to plant more than twenty saplings and now look forward to watching them develop and grow on our school grounds.



## **Developing International Links**

During our recent inspection, the Ofsted team highlighted the exemplary practice observed in relation to our broader curriculum. As part of our commitment to this area, we are pleased that our international partnerships continue to develop across our school community. We are proud that our Ukrainian students continue to thrive at Lady Manners and have integrated so well into our school. Additionally, we recently hosted student groups from Slovenia and Germany as part of two international exchanges. Students from both countries spent several days in our school and participated in events alongside our own students, who benefited enormously from the experience. Our intention is to strengthen the partnerships we have established to present further exciting opportunities for students to acquire cultural capital.

## **Time Capsule**

Twenty-five years ago, students from Lady Manners School buried a Millennium time capsule. All students at the school at the time were asked to suggest items for inclusion in the capsule. In the end, around a dozen items were sealed into a special pipe and buried near the pond, next to my office. The items were intended to signify pupils' time at the school at the turn of the century.

Our current School Officers are helping to organise a special ceremony in April to unlock the underground treasure trove. The contents are rumoured to include video footage of the school, a school badge and a Spice Girls CD! As part of the planned ceremony, current students will bury their own time capsule which will remain underground for another quarter of a century.

## **Autism Awareness**

Next term, our school will be participating in Autism Awareness Month to promote understanding, acceptance, and support for those on the autism spectrum. Throughout the month we will be organising a range of activities, including informative presentations and classroom discussions.

As part of our inclusive school values, we want to use this opportunity to help raise awareness and promote a more accepting society.

## School Lunches

As a school, we are committed to providing high-quality meals for our students whilst ensuring that this provision remains sustainable. Due to significant increases in food costs, we have no alternative but to increase the price of school lunches. Our catering service does not make a profit. Our aim is to ensure this provision breaks even in financial terms. We understand that any increase in price can be challenging, and we are committed to keeping our prices as affordable as possible whilst maintaining the quality and balance of the meals we provide. Further information will be provided in due course.

## PTFA Support

I would like to express our appreciation for the outstanding work performed by our Parents, Teachers, and Friends Association (PTFA) on behalf of our school community. The PTFA plays a crucial role in enhancing the educational experience of our students by supporting various school events and leading on fundraising initiatives. If you are interested in joining or learning more about the PTFA, please contact the Chair of the PTFA, Tracey Hall, who will be delighted to hear from you. Her email address is: [parentsassociationlms@gmail.com](mailto:parentsassociationlms@gmail.com). Membership of the PTFA provides a wonderful opportunity to become more involved with our school, meet other parents, and contribute to the success of our students.

## Parental Communications with School

Lady Manners School is one of the largest schools in Derbyshire with over 1400 students on roll. Our staff always try their best to deal with issues as quickly as possible, and in a thorough and professional manner. However, due to the size of our school, it is not always possible to respond to issues immediately or to see people who turn up at our school without a prior appointment.

As you would expect, we are not prepared to have our school day, or the learning of students, disrupted unnecessarily. Please be advised that leaders, teachers and support staff will not leave a classroom or a meeting to see a parent or carer who has turned up to school without a scheduled appointment. Members of staff will, however, aim to arrange a mutually convenient meeting time at the earliest available opportunity when contacted in advance.

The vast majority of our parents and carers are supportive, patient and work with the school in the best interests of our students. This approach is appreciated by all staff.

## Canon Tony



Canon Tony delivered his final assembly at Lady Manners this morning. He has provided the school with many years of highly distinguished service over many years, and we are proud that he has made such a supportive and impactful contribution. Current and former students regularly talk about their Commemoration Service, the Christmas and Easter events, and the entertaining assemblies delivered by Canon Tony. We will all miss his engaging talks and powerful life messages. We wish him well as he begins his richly deserved retirement.

## FACULTY IN FOCUS: PERSONAL AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT (Mr R Allen - Director of Learning)

The Personal and Physical Development Faculty has enjoyed another exciting and inspiring term. Staff and students have worked together to enhance learning, ensure success and further improve personal development opportunities across the school.

Staff have delivered thought-provoking assemblies covering British Values, Protected Characteristics and, most recently, the impact that faith can have on our lives. The faculty has introduced a new approach to the delivery of the Personal Development Studies curriculum. Students have embraced the new sessions and enjoyed the content, including Individual Liberty and Law, Resolving Conflict and Building a Moral Workplace.



A key highlight of this term was having the chance to host two visiting schools from Slovenia. This was a very enjoyable and enriching opportunity for our students and staff. Students enjoyed the cultural exchange and were excited to make new friends. The visiting staff were also given the opportunity to teach some of our students in lessons.

Our Year 11 students have recently been involved in an Active Citizenship Project. Students have interviewed family members and have been learning about how particular life events impact individuals at different stages.

As another winter sporting season comes to an end, we are pleased to report continued success for many of our teams. Notable achievements from our football teams include the U13 and U15 girls who reached the county semi-finals. In the boys' competition, the U13, U16 and U18 teams also reached the semi-final stages of the County Cup. We are very proud of our senior boys who reached the last 64 of the ESFA Cup and the U15 netball team, who were placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in their county tournament. Our U13 girls also won the Derbyshire Dales indoor athletics competition, which is an excellent achievement.

There are many individual successes to celebrate, including: William, Connie, Cody and Caitlin who represented Derbyshire in the English School's Cross-Country Championships.

We now look forward to a range of summer sporting events, including our prestigious annual Sports Day in June.

### Key Events Planned for the Spring and Summer Terms

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday 30 April	6.00 pm	PTFA Meeting
Sunday 11 May	7.00 am	PTFA Car Boot Sale
Thursday 8 May - Tuesday 24 June	All Day	GCSE and A Level Examination Period
Monday 26 May - Friday 30 May	All Day	Half Term
Monday 2 June - Thursday 5 June	All Day	Year 12 Mock Examinations
Sunday 8 June	7.00 am	PTFA Car Boot Sale
Monday 23 & Tuesday 24 June	All Day	Sixth Form Induction Day
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
Wednesday 2 July	All Day	Year 6 Taster Day / Intake Evening
Saturday 12 July	11.00 am -2.00 pm	Uniform Selling Day (Sports Hall)
Sunday 13 July	7.00 am	PTFA Car Boot Sale

As we prepare for the Easter break, we wish all our students, parents and carers a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. We look forward to seeing our students again on Tuesday 22 April.

G Peat  
Headteacher

