

# Lady Manners School

## Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 6 Summer Term 2025

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

As we are all aware, this has been an 'Ofsted year'. We were delighted with our report following an inspection which took place in February. Inspectors were particularly impressed with our students and consistently praised them throughout their visit. We are proud that Ofsted reported: 'Pupils enjoy attending this welcoming and caring school' and 'Pupils have highly positive attitudes to learning'. We look forward to building on this excellent report over the coming years.

### **Examinations 2025**

I would like to begin by congratulating all students who have recently completed their summer examinations. Students showed a committed attitude throughout the examination season and should be proud of their efforts. We look forward to joining our students in celebrating their successes on Thursday 14 August (A Level and Level 3) and Thursday 21 August (GCSE and Level 2).

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

During the term, we have held transition and induction events for our students. We are pleased that many 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, who will arrive from over fifty different primary schools in September.

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

Year 11 students spent two induction days in school preparing for their transfer 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 post-16 student. We look forward to seeing our students again at the start of the new academic year and to welcoming external students who will be joining us from other schools in September.

### **School Officer Interviews**

We were delighted with the interest shown by current Year 12 students in School Officer roles that were advertised earlier this term. In total, we received 23 applications and were impressed with the enthusiasm and creativity of the candidates. Following a robust shortlisting process, successful candidates will be interviewed early in the new academic year.

### **Events**

We have held a significant number of whole-school events recently which, as usual, have generated positive feedback. Thank you to all parents and carers who have attended events throughout the year.

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

We were pleased to see students perform at our summer music concert this term. The varied programme enabled musicians, including 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 also proved to be an outstanding event. Students competed in House teams 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 17 July. Many of the items on display have been submitted as part of GCSE and A level coursework and the event enabled students to receive feedback from a range of visitors. Congratulations to all students who exhibited their excellent work.

### **International Trips**

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

As usual, students behaved impeccably, and we have received excellent feedback regarding their conduct and politeness. 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**

This half-term, Year 10 students enjoyed an exciting 'World of Work' week. A range of employers were invited to speak to our students about different career pathways. We also welcomed the Higher Education Progression Partnership (HEPP) to talk about different study options at post-18 and broadening horizons. Students took part in various workshops to build on important employability skills and learned how to confidently talk and market themselves to an employer. Students also created their own CV and had an opportunity to take part in a mock interview.

### **Year 12 Work Experience**

Year 12 students have spent a week out of school on work experience, gaining real industry experience as well as developing essential skills for the world of work. In addition to this, students have been to a UCAS convention to meet both university and apprenticeship providers support their post-18 progression plans.

### **Careers Information**

This term, our Year 10 and Year 12 students attended assemblies about local and national Labour Market Information (LMI). All year groups have now benefited from this over the course of the year. Derbyshire 'Growth Sectors' and 'Priority Sectors' were discussed, as well learning about the local job market in Bakewell, supply and demand of the labour force, local skills gaps, and challenging stereotypes.

A reminder that there are many excellent resources available to you as parents and carers, to support you in having empowered conversations with your young people. Here are some of the recommended websites:

[Parents Advice for Career Conversations - Talking Futures](#)

[Skills for Careers](#)

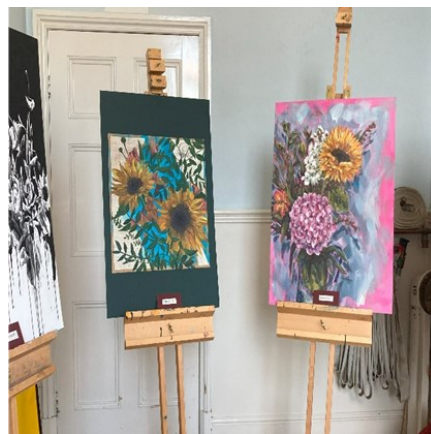
[Careers advice - job profiles, information and resources | National Careers Service](#)

[Parent - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

A reminder that we also have careers information on our school website, and we will continue to share the latest careers opportunities on Class Charts.

### **Links with Chatsworth**

Our partnership with the Chatworth Estate continues to strengthen. Drama students recently delivered highly enjoyable performances of 'The Tempest' and 'Richard III' at Chatsworth Theatre. Although extremely hot on the night, it was a privilege to attend this event, and students will have undoubtedly gained a treasured memory from participating in this prestigious occasion. The event was a positive example of how well curriculum areas collaborate across their faculties, with musical performances and artistic exhibitions taking place during the evening.



Last week, our farming group attended a land-based day at which was led by an external tutor. The programme included an analysis of livestock farming, information regarding how to manage an environmental farming scheme, and a review of arable farming techniques. During the final week of term, a number of Year 7 students received an educational tour of Chatsworth House. We look forward to planning new experiences for our students during the next academic year.

### **Lockdown Practice**

We held a first 'out of lesson' lockdown practice last week which highlighted the actions required in the highly unlikely event of a real-life incident occurring at school. Students were briefed on our lockdown procedure and were made familiar with the distinctive lockdown warning bells. The practice proved to be an extremely useful exercise and students should be commended on their behaviour and attitude throughout the drill. Feedback will now be carefully analysed to further improve our emergency procedures.

### **Mobile Phones**

We are committed to creating a focused and safe learning environment for all our students. From September, Lady Manners School will be making a minor amendment to our policy in relation to the use of mobile phones in lessons.

From the start of the new academic year, students in Years 7, 8, and 9 will not require a phone for any lesson. However, if a specific activity in a GCSE or equivalent course would benefit from phone use, students will receive advance notice and be allowed to use this technology to enhance their learning in specific lessons. Those students without a phone will have access to a suitable alternative provided by the school. Phones may only be used under the strict supervision of a teacher and must not be seen or heard at any other time.

Sixth Form students are permitted to bring phones and use these in the Sixth Form Centre. However, these must not be visible in the main school, except in the library for study purposes.

Students will be permitted to carry a mobile phone for safety reasons when travelling to and from school. However, unless explicit permission is given by a teacher in the older years, phones must not be seen or used on our school site at any time during the school day.

### **Staffing News**

At the end of this academic year, we will be saying farewell to departing colleagues. I am sure you will join me in wishing them all the very best for the future.

|                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mrs T Bassett     | Catering Assistant                  |
| Mrs G Faragher    | Examinations Officer                |
| Mr M Foyle        | Teacher of D&T                      |
| Mrs R Gaunt       | Curriculum Leader for Art           |
| Mr A Glynn-Reeves | Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages |
| Miss L Lowe       | Teacher of Art and Textiles         |
| Mrs A Ryan        | Teacher of PD                       |
| Mrs R Shaw        | Teacher of English                  |
| Miss T Thorp      | Teacher of Mathematics              |
| Miss A Wright     | Teacher of Music                    |

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

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

|                 |                                      |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mr T Atkins     | Curriculum Leader for Music          |
| Mrs R Gibbons   | Teacher of English                   |
| Mr C Holland    | Teacher of D&T                       |
| Mrs K McCabe    | Teacher of Art and Textiles          |
| Miss L Ridgeway | Curriculum Leader for Art & Textiles |
| Mr J Sainsbury  | Teacher of Mathematics               |
| Miss L Thomas   | Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages  |

### **PTFA**

We would like to thank our dedicated Parents, Teachers, Friends Association (PTFA) Committee members, who have worked tirelessly this year to support the school. With fewer than five regular members, their commitment, enthusiasm and hard work has made a real difference to our school community.

To ensure we can continue to offer excellent opportunities and resources for our students, we would like more parents and carers to get involved. Even a small amount of your time can help to spread the workload and benefit all our children. If you are interested in supporting the PTFA, please see the website [PTFA](#) for further details or get in touch with Tracey Hall, PTFA Chair [parentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:parentsassociation@gmail.com).

### **FACULTY FOCUS: SCIENTIFIC STUDIES**

#### **Wellbeing Garden**

The Lady Manners 'Sunny Side Up' wellbeing garden is set to open in September 2025. An area of the school that is currently underutilised will be having a revamp over the summer holidays to provide a relaxing and calm area for students to connect with nature and learn the importance of biodiversity and interdependence.

### **Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM)**

We are pleased to announce that Lady Manners has been chosen to host a scanning electron microscope in conjunction with the Natural History Museum. This will offer our KS4 and KS5 students an opportunity to use advanced scientific equipment to visualise the microscopic world around us.

### **Zookeepers' Club**

The Zookeepers' Club has had some new arrivals with the additions of a giant African snail that can grow to over 20cm, some baby stick insects, carnivorous plants and an ant colony. The club also enjoyed a visit from some local lambs who entertained our students throughout their stay.

### **Year 12 Projects and Academic Posters**

The Year 12 science project started this term giving our students the chance to work with fellow scientists across all three sciences. This work included looking at innovative ways to use cutting edge technology as treatments for common diseases. Year 12 students also presented academic posters to teachers and external guests during an event that showcased their expertise across a wide range of interesting topics. Students eloquently answered questions about their posters, highlighting an impressive level of knowledge of their chosen areas of study.

### **Chicks and Ducks (Hatching)**



During the Spring term, we welcomed some new additions to the school. Our Year 7 students got the chance to candle chick and duck eggs to see inside the egg and watch them develop. The whole school watched the live stream showing the hatching and growth of the chicks and ducklings. We also had some year group handling sessions during lunch time, which the students enjoyed.

### **DNA Origami**

Year 12 students took part in an IRIS project, manipulating the shape of DNA as a potential treatment for non-competitive inhibitors, for example to treat cyanide poisoning. Students have completed some outstanding work and will be presenting their ideas at the IRIS Summer conference.

Early this year, Mrs Cresswell and Mr Lee took a group of students to the GCSE 'Science Live' event in Sheffield. Students had a wonderful day learning about a wide range of topics and recent advances in science from leading UK academics, including Professor Robert Winston.

### **The Royal Society of Chemistry Analyst Competition**

Our Year 12 Chemistry students have all taken part in the Royal Society of Chemistry Analyst competition, which took place earlier in the term. In this year's scenario, they were working as analysts to support the Department of Housing to determine whether ground was suitable for building houses. This work involved students using the practical skills they have learned this year, including chemical analysis, chromatography and performing multiple calculations. Answers have been submitted to the Royal Society of Chemistry, and results are awaited with great anticipation.

### **Cambridge Chemistry Challenge**

In June, ten Year 12 students sat the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. This difficult challenge allows the students to build on the Chemistry they have learned during their first year of A-level and apply it to an unfamiliar context.

## Year 12 Physics Research.



*A picture of the NGC 3132 (Southern Ring) planetary nebula. This planetary nebula is approximately 2,500 light-years away.*

In collaboration with the Institute for Research in Schools, Year 12 Physics students have recently taken part in two cutting edge physics research projects. The first project involved students learning how to accurately identify distinct types of stars using light collected from the Spitzer Space Telescope.

The second project involved students using data from the Large Hadron Collider to see if they can determine the energy of a recently discovered new particle called the Higgs Boson. The students ended up with an energy that matches the currently accepted value to within 2%. An amazing achievement!

All the students have produced exceptionally high-quality work, and we are immensely proud of them.

## 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). To accommodate this change, buses will be arriving earlier to collect students.

School will re-open to new Year 7 and Year 12 students on Monday 8 September. Students from all year groups will return to school on Tuesday 9 September.

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

