

Lady Manners School

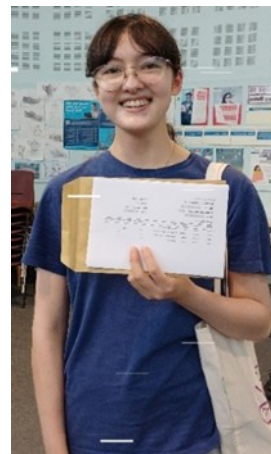
Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 1 Autumn Term 2025

Excellent Results for Lady Manners School!

Congratulations to Year 11 and Year 13 students who sat examinations during the summer period. Year 13 students achieved exceptionally well in both A Level and vocational courses achieving results that were in the **top 25%** of the country. Year 11 students also achieved highly in a wide range of subjects and should be proud of their achievements. Outcomes were significantly higher than national scores across all headline measures. Well done to students on their outstanding successes!

Please visit our website to view a breakdown of our 2025 results [School Performance - Lady Manners School](#).



Year 7 Students

Our new Year 7 students have enjoyed an excellent start to the academic year after arriving at Lady Manners from over fifty different primary schools. They have integrated well into their new environment and have adapted well to new ways of learning. Our recent Year 7 'settling in' evening for parents and carers presented an opportunity for students to showcase their new school. Students excitedly showed their families around the school site and visited a variety of classrooms and wider facilities. There was a vibrant atmosphere throughout the event, and it was a pleasure to hold so many positive conversations with parents, carers and students.

Summer School 2025

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.

School Officers

Congratulations to our team of Year 13 School Officers who were appointed earlier this term following a robust interview process. Officers have already represented the school during whole-school events and have contributed impressively to assemblies across the school.



School Officers 2025:

Oliver
Bess
Alex (Senior Officer)
Daisy (Senior Officer)
Jakob
Ellie

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, Thomas, and Year 13 Senior School Officers, Daisy and Alex, who delivered excellent speeches during the talks in the main hall.

A reminder that the deadline for applications for September 2026 entry into secondary schools is **31 October 2025**. We look forward to receiving applications from students across a wide range of primary schools.

Attendance

Raising attendance remains a key priority for our school and the vast majority of families work co-operatively to ensure absences remain at a minimum. Educational research consistently finds that even one day of missed learning can have a genuine impact on progress.

Attendance rates have been high across all year groups this term, supported by the excellent work of our pastoral and early help teams. We continue to encourage parents and carers to ensure that their child achieves maximum possible attendance throughout the year. Please avoid taking holidays during term-time as this will have a disruptive effect on learning and will invariably lead to a fine.

Commemoration Service

Our annual Commemoration Service was held on Tuesday 21 October at Bakewell Parish Church. As is customary, this event commemorated the life of our school founder, Grace, Lady Manners and was attended by Year 7 and Year 12 students. The service was led by Pastor Rob and was supported magnificently by our school choir who excelled in making the service a memorable occasion for all who attended.



Mobile Phones

We continue to be committed to creating a safe, positive and distraction-free environment for all our students. Our mobile phone policy significantly helps us do this and we are grateful to students who are respecting our high expectations.

As a reminder, we expect all phones to be switched off and stored in students' bags or lockers during the school day. If, in Year 10 upwards, a learning activity would benefit from smart phone technology, students will receive advance notice of this and any students without a phone will have access to a suitable alternative provided by the school.

Mobile phones continue to be permitted for the journeys to and from school for safety reasons. Sixth Form students are also permitted to use their mobile phones in the Sixth Form Centre, but these must not be visible in the main school, except in the library for study purposes.

Road Safety

We are pleased to be working closely with the Local Authority Traffic Safety Team to improve road safety on the roads immediately surrounding our school for the benefit of our students, staff, and the wider community.

As part of this collaborative work, the following measures are being progressed:

- Installing yellow lines on the corners of Shutts Lane and Monyash Road
- Extending the restricted parking lines on Shutts Lane

These improvements are designed to enhance visibility at key junctions, reduce congestion and ensure that emergency vehicles can access the school without obstruction.

We would appreciate your support to ensure these measures are effective by adhering to the following guidance:

- Avoid parking on yellow lines, restricted areas or opposite the entrance and exit for the bus bay
- Use designated parking areas and consider parking further away and walking the final distance to school
- Be mindful of local residents - please do not block driveways or park inconsiderately
- Allow extra time for drop-off and collection to avoid the need to rush or park dangerously
- Consider car-sharing with other families where possible to reduce congestion

Careers

Every week during tutor time, students learn about a new career possibility. The job roles we shared this half-term include a librarian, geoscientist, financial adviser, housing officer, interpreter and ophthalmologist. Students learn what the job entails, the qualifications and skills needed and the expected salary.

This half-term also hosted 'T Level Awareness Week'. T Levels are two-year courses that students can take following GCSEs at a local, further education provider. They are developed in collaboration with employers and offer a mixture of classroom learning and 'on the job' experience, with 45 days spent on an industry placement. You can read more about T Levels [HERE](#).

In extended registration, Year 7 students learned about the different types of work and motivation for work. Year 8 students learned about the world of work now and in the future. Year 9 started thinking about what might influence their GCSE options, and how to make good decisions. Year 10 have been investigating important skills for the workplace including empathy, tact and good humour.

Year 11 students have benefited from a series of assemblies to consider their choices after Year 11, such as A Levels, vocational qualifications such as Cambridge Technical and BTECs, T Levels and apprenticeships. Alongside an assembly about our excellent Sixth Form provision at Lady Manners, we also hosted local providers - Chesterfield College and Buxton College - to discuss their provision and possible programmes of study. All students in Year 11 receive a one-to-one Careers Guidance Meeting which is an opportunity for personalised study and career guidance that is unique to your young person.

Finally, as part of your child's careers provision in school, we regularly invite guest speakers to talk to our young people about different jobs and industries. We recognise that our parents and carers have a wealth of diverse career experience and encourage you to contact the school if you would like to contribute to our programme.

Please visit our website for further careers information. Should you have any questions, you may contact Mrs Bortoli, our Careers Leader, on: careers@ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk.

Spotlight on English and Media Faculty



Creative Writing Club

In Creative Writing Club, we write to a new prompt every week. This is usually a different genre or style of writing where students can freely write stories and poems. This develops creativity, a sense of confidence and encourages imaginative thinking. These skills can be extremely useful for English language when writing fiction or even non-fiction.

In previous years, we have also created a map of an imaginary town where students can create a character and write about their character participating in set scenes or interactions with other characters.

We also offer opportunities for students to enter competitions with 'Young Writers' and other publishing companies, aimed at secondary school level. After the competitions, the work of students can be published in an anthology available for purchase and display. This boosts confidence and adds even more structure to the enjoyment of writing.

Media, Film & KS3 Skills

It is an exciting time in GCSE Film Studies as our first cohort of students enter Year 11 and have begun to study the key developments in American film during the last century. In Year 10, students explored a range of British and global films whilst creating screenplays, shooting scripts and analysing extracts of films in the coming-of-age genre. We are also launching a Film Club on Friday lunchtimes to encourage key stage 3 students to develop a keen interest in cinematography.

Key Skills

Year 8 students have begun their course in key stage 3 'Skills' which encourages them to

develop a range of vocational skills and explore topical issues. This term, students worked towards debates against other classes, where they were able to put their planning, research and public speaking to the test. Nearer Christmas, the Year 8 students will be responsible for preparing and running the Christmas Fayre in school to raise money for various charities.

‘Theatre for Schools’



The English and Media Faculty recently hosted a visit from a theatre company (‘Theatre for Schools’), whose cast delivered a performance of Macbeth to Year 10 and Year 11 students to support their GCSE studies.

Ms Bell, Director of Learning for the Faculty of English and Media, said: ‘We are committed to ensuring that our students experience live productions. The students’ behaviour throughout was exemplary - they clearly benefitted from this initiative’.

Autumn Term Events / Key Dates for your Diary

Monday 3 November		Staff Inset Day
Monday 17 November		House Cross Country
Tuesday 18 November	16:30	Sixth Form Open Evening
Thursday 20 November	18:00	School Production
Friday 21 November	18:00	School Production
Saturday 22 November	18:00	School Production
Wednesday 26 November	18:00	PTFA Meeting
Wednesday 3 December	16:00	Year 13 Parents’ Evening Online
Thursday 4 December	18:30	Carol Service, Bakewell Parish Church
Monday 8 December	16:00	Year 9 Online Parents’ Evening
Thursday 11 December	18:00	Christmas Concert
Friday 12 December		Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 17 December	18:00	Presentation Evening
Friday 19 December		End of Term
Monday 5 January		Staff Inset Day
Tuesday 6 January		Start of Term for all students

Staff Training Day

A polite reminder that we will be holding a staff training day on Monday 3 November. All students will therefore return to school on Tuesday 4 November for the start of the new term. In the meantime, I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable half-term break.

Mr Peat
Headteacher

