



# Lady Manners School

## Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 2 Autumn Term 2025

Welcome to our Christmas newsletter!

As usual, this has been a busy time in the school year. Many activities have taken place throughout the term and students have performed with distinction in high profile events both within school and in the wider community. Congratulations to all students on their excellent achievements so far during this academic year.

### Inclusion Faculty



The school continues to develop and we have made changes to our Inclusion Faculty that we believe will benefit our current and future students. This includes our approach to student wellbeing and the role of key professionals within our inclusion staffing structure. A newly restructured Inclusion Faculty will be introduced from January 2026. This Faculty will be led by Mrs Ridley (Deputy Headteacher, Inclusion).

The new structure will bring together the work of the school's pastoral, early help and learning support teams. A fundamental priority in developing this restructured model has been to ensure that key leaders are primarily non-teaching professionals. This will provide staff with more time to deal with issues expeditiously during a school day, rather than having to work around heavy teaching commitments. New appointments in a number of key positions are already in place, including Year Leader roles, although Mr Martin (Head of Year 11) and Miss Howarth (Year 11 PSA) will remain with their current year group until the end of the academic year.



Congratulations to Mrs Hobday who was appointed as our Inclusion Leader for Safeguarding and Wellbeing this week. Mrs Taberner, who already works at the school, will take over the Year Leader role for Year 9 on a temporary basis from the start of January. We wish both colleagues well in their new positions.

A graduated approach will always be used to deal with inclusion issues with clear lines of communication that should be followed. This ensures that concerns are directed to the correct person or team quickly and appropriate support can be put in place at the right level to avoid issues escalating. We have highly skilled and experienced specialists in place to deal with specific issues across different year groups. Any initial contact with senior leaders will always be re-directed to the most appropriate person or team of people.

Most concerns are addressed successfully at a very early stage, and issues rarely escalate to a higher level. Staff will always take your concerns seriously and will aim to resolve all issues in an informal manner. On the rare occasions where this is not possible, clear policies and procedures will be followed.

A polite reminder that **the first point of contact** should always be your child's Form Tutor. You can contact the relevant tutor via email with their first initial and last name, followed by @ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk, eg [jbloggs@ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:jbloggs@ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk). If you ever need to visit our school, please ensure that you have made an appointment first. A reminder that all visitors must sign in at reception. Any person visiting the site without an appointment will be asked to leave. Unaccompanied visitors are not allowed on site for safeguarding reasons. Thank you for your cooperation regarding this matter.

## **Remembrance Service**

We held our annual Remembrance Service on Tuesday 11 November. As always, this was a poignant occasion which was impeccably observed by students across all age groups. This year we remembered former student, Samuel Sheldon, who was tragically killed by machine gun fire in 'No Man's Land' within a few moments of leaving a trench near the village of Serre in France. Samuel was just 23 years old and sadly his body was never recovered.

I would like to thank our history teacher, Mr Roberts, who once again delivered an outstanding assembly for Year 7 and Year 8 students to commemorate our former military students. This enabled our younger learners to appreciate the sacrifices made by the brave soldiers who attended Lady Manners School.

## **Drama Production: The Railway Children**

Students across a range of year groups gave an outstanding performance of 'The Railway Children' in November. Performers and wider cast members showcased their talents superbly across three evenings and their efforts were appreciated by large audiences. I was particularly impressed by the fluent French and Russian that was spoken during the performance – and with the number of accurate regional accents delivered by the cast.

Staff from the Creative Arts Faculty worked energetically to make this ambitious production such an innovative and engaging event. Lighting, special effects, props and costumes were outstanding and certainly enhanced the audience experience.

Well done to all involved!



## **Carol Service and Christmas Concert**

Congratulations to all students who participated in our Carol Service and School Christmas Concert.

Students were exceptional and performed with distinction at both events. The school choir and musicians were outstanding during Carol Service at Bakewell Parish Church. I always admire students who volunteer to perform readings at the event. Students confidently read out important messages, and each spoke with clarity and assurance.

The Christmas Concert was a highly enjoyable occasion. The 'Senior Orchestra', junior and senior choirs, flute and clarinet choirs, brass and string ensembles, senior wind band and jazz orchestra all produced outstanding performances. The audience also participated enthusiastically during the event and expertly sang a selection of Christmas carols during the evening.

Congratulations to all involved, including staff who led the event. We now look forward to our Spring Concert on 4 March 2026 and our Easter Concert on 25 March 2026.



### **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 2025 examination series were celebrated and students fully deserved the accolades they received. Our guest speaker this year, Joe Wrieden, delivered a thought-provoking and humorous speech describing his experiences since leaving Lady Manners School in 2019.

### **Sixth Form Open Evening**

Our Sixth Form Open Evening was well-attended and enabled both existing and external students to gain an insight into what life is like as a Sixth Form student at Lady Manners School. The evening provided a chance to promote our post-16 provision and to highlight the extensive wider opportunities available to our learners.

A reminder that the deadline for making an application to the Sixth Form at Lady Manners School is **Friday 19 December**. We welcome applications from all our current Year 11 students.

### **Student Success**



Congratulations to Year 12 student Emelia, who studies the Double Bass and French Horn at the Junior Royal Northern College of Music (JRNCM). Emelia has recently passed her Diploma in Double Bass with a Distinction. The exam comprised a 30-minute programme in which musicality, performance and skill had to be shown. She prepared for the exam with numerous performances to Bakewell Methodist School, Valley Lodge Care Home, S. Anselm's School and her peers at the JRNCM. She is now working on perfecting the pieces for the Diploma on the French Horn and her Grade 8 singing.

### **Fundraising**

We continue to explore methods of raising funds for the school. Our marketing team has met regularly during the term to discuss fundraising activities and to agree ways of accumulating money to support school projects. Our PTFA continues to work committedly to raise funds for our school. We were recently presented with a large donation by the PTFA which was greatly appreciated. This money will be used to buy computer equipment for the school to the benefit students across all age groups over many years.

We are actively seeking volunteers to support our marketing team to help raise funds for our school which will benefit all students. If you have a level of expertise in this area, or would just like to offer general support, your input would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Janet Snell (Business Manager) for further information at [jsnell@ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:jsnell@ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk)

## Careers Update

This term students across the school have learned about different career roles, including an interpreter, a jewellery designer, a life coach, an oceanographer, a prison officer, a secretary and a toxicologist. Students learn what the job entails, the qualifications and skills needed, and the expected level of salary.

In addition, our Year 8 students took part in the STEM learning 'Protect our Planet Day' online event. Year 10 students had an assembly to start thinking about their post-16 choices after Year 11, including A Levels, vocational qualifications, T Levels and Apprenticeships.

Year 11 students have been enjoying post-16 taster sessions in the Sixth Form, as well as having their one-to-one careers guidance meetings with Mr Pacey to discuss their next steps and long-term career aspirations. Career Plans are shared with students and their parents/carers via Class Charts.

It has also been an exciting time for Year 13 students making choices about their next steps. Students considering university have submitted their UCAS applications and Mrs Bortoli (Careers Leader) ran a 'CV Writing for Degree Apprenticeships' assembly and workshop for students considering this route. Resources to support applications was shared on Class Charts and you may find further resources on our school website: [HERE](#).

Please visit our website for further information relating to careers. Should you have any questions, please contact Mrs Bortoli, our Careers Leader, via email: [careers@ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:careers@ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk).

## Parent Governor Election

Congratulations to Brian McKeown who was recently re-appointed as Parent Governor. However, as there were two vacancies for Parent Governor, there still remains a vacancy. Nominations will be sought again in January. If, in the meantime, you would like to find out more information on being a governor at Lady Manners School, please contact the Clerk on [governors@ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:governors@ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk)

## Staff Leavers

We say farewell to a number of staff who are leaving Lady Manners School this month. We wish all our leavers well for the future and thank them all for their distinguished service.

### Ms Osborn



Ms Osborn has been an Assistant Headteacher at Lady Manners School since September 2011 and has played a key role in supporting our students over many years. Ms Osborn was initially in charge of Key Stage 3 students, before extending this responsibility to include all 11-16 learners.

She has taught PE, Drama and English at the school following previous roles as a PE teacher and Head of Key Stage 3 at St Michael and All Angels Academy in London.

She has led pastoral teams across the school, with her main area of responsibility being safeguarding and wellbeing. She has always cared deeply about her students and has had a positive impact on their lives during her 14 years at our school. She will be missed by all students and staff, and we thank her for her outstanding service.



### Mr Charlesworth



We say farewell to Mr Charlesworth following over 25 years of distinguished service at Lady Manners School. He was employed in January 2000, starting his career as an Assistant Caretaker, before being later appointed to the position of Premises Manager from May 2003.

He was previously a staff governor and actively worked to represent the views of the school community to better the day-to-day life of our students. He has always gone the extra mile to support the work and life of the school, including many hours of voluntary work.

### Mr Law

Mr Law has been at Lady Manners School for 13 years (since October 2012), working primarily as a Cover Supervisor. This follows previous roles in the RAF (Regiment Officer), International Security Consultancy, and the Army (Army Officer). He has made significant contributions to the Creative Arts Faculty, providing technical support and performing 'front of house' duties during drama and music productions. He has been an immense support to our Duke of Edinburgh students and has given many extra hours of work voluntarily running the gardening club. We wish Mr Law well for the next chapter in his life.



### Mrs Strange



Mrs Strange has worked at Lady Manners School for 11 years (since October 2014). After previously working as a tutor in the prison service, she started her career at Lady Manners as a Cover Supervisor and, after successfully achieving Qualified Teacher Status, she has most recently taught Personal Development, RE and Citizenship to students across a range of year groups.

We wish Mrs Strange well as she departs to enjoy a well-earned retirement.

### Miss Duroe

Miss Duroe has been an influential member of our inclusion team since November 2023. She was previously a student at Lady Manners School, leaving in 2019, before returning to take up a role within our Inclusion Faculty. She has developed excellent relationships with students, parents and carers during her time as a Pastoral Support Assistant and is highly respected by students in her year group.



We send Miss Duroe our best wishes as she embarks upon the next stage of her career. She will join King Edward VII School in Sheffield as a Pastoral Leader in January.

## Faculty in Focus: Global Studies

### Geography



Year 12 A Level Geography students gain valuable experience through fieldwork and research. They recently completed a two-day residential trip to Liverpool, investigating the city's changing character. Staying overnight in Liverpool and after enjoying a full English breakfast, the students spent time investigating Formby and Ainsdale sand dunes.

Students also attend a taster day at Sheffield Hallam University before completing independent investigations on their chosen geographical topics- currently in the final stages of completion for Year 13.

## History



A Level History students have enjoyed several enriching trips recently. Our current Year 13 students visited Chester and Conwy, as part of their coursework, exploring Norman architecture at Chester Cathedral and Edward I's castle at Conwy. Current Year 12 students explored Manchester in October, visiting nineteenth-century warehouses, the first post-Reformation Catholic church, the People's History Museum, and a recreated Roman fort. The annual London trip included discussions about the Benin bronzes at the British Museum, plus visits to the National Portrait Gallery and Westminster Abbey, featuring Edward I's coronation chair.

## Languages



The Languages team launched the year with European Day of Languages celebrations. Special assemblies showcased staff language skills and highlighted former students' global destinations - from China to Brazil - following on from their language studies at Lady Manners School. Students also participated in a school-wide quiz, finding staff's favourite words in different languages and translating our school values into French, German and Spanish. Over 20 entries were received for the baking

competition, whilst designs were received from students across Years 7-9 for our T-shirt logo competition. Beyond school, Year 10 students have enjoyed trips to France, Spain and Germany, whilst Year 13 students recently had a great experience visiting Berlin.

## Key Dates for your Diary

Monday 5 January		Staff Inset Day
Tuesday 6 January		Start of Term for all students
Wednesday 14 January	4.00 pm - 7.30 pm	Year 10 Parents' Evening (online)
Tuesday 20 January	4.00 pm - 7.30 pm	Year 11 Parents' Evening (online)
Tuesday 3 February	4.30 pm	Year 9 Options Evening
Wednesday 25 February	6.00 pm	GCSE and A Level Recital Evening (Ashford Church)
Monday 2 March	4.00 pm - 7.30 pm	Year 8 Parents' Evening (online)
Wednesday 4 March	6.00 pm	Spring Concert
Tuesday 17 March	4.00 pm - 7.30 pm	Year 12 Parents' Evening (online)
Wednesday 25 March	6.00 pm	Easter Concert

## Staff Training Day

A polite reminder that we will be holding a staff training day on Monday 5 January. All students will therefore return to school on Tuesday 6 January for the start of the new academic term.

In the meantime, I wish you an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break.

Mr Peat  
Headteacher

