



Lady Manners School

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 3 Spring Term 2026

As we approach the half-term break, I would like to congratulate students across all year groups on their continuing hard work and enthusiasm. Students remain focussed and engaged in lessons and their commitment to extra-curricular activities is outstanding. I am appreciative of families who are increasingly updating me on the wider achievements of our students. We have such talented individuals at our school who achieve highly across a range of specialisms, and we are proud of their successes.

Adverse Weather

The first week of term started with an amber warning for snow in Bakewell and surrounding areas. The forecast turned out to be accurate, and the impact of Storm Goretta resulted in a closure of the school on Friday 9 January. Closing a school is always a difficult decision, but the safety of our students and staff will continue to be prioritised.

Thank you to all parents and carers who supported the school during the adverse weather. Site staff and bus companies should also be praised for the professional and efficient way they dealt with the challenging conditions to ensure the safety of our students.

Year 9 Options

Thank you to all students, parents and carers who attended our recent Year 9 Options Evening. This event was well-attended, and students gathered important information about their potential GCSE and Level 2 courses. As I walked around the site, I heard many positive conversations between families, and students are clearly looking forward to the next phase of their education.

Students have a range of subjects to select from and will need to think carefully about their option choices. Over the past couple of weeks, taster lessons have been delivered by staff across a wide range of courses, and combinations of subjects are being considered by students that will facilitate future learning pathways.

We look forward to receiving option choices by the deadline date (Friday 13 February).

Year 11 Interviews

This term, all Year 11 students have been interviewed by senior members of staff regarding their progression plans at the end of the academic year. All staff were impressed with student inputs during the one-to-one discussions and the level of engagement displayed. It is clear that students have carefully considered their options and are motivated to succeed in their forthcoming summer examinations.

The interviews with senior staff have taken place following personalised meetings with careers staff who have reviewed potential post-16 destinations. We are delighted that many of our students will be remaining at Lady Manners to join our Sixth Form and we know they will be working hard in the coming months to achieve their required grades. Wherever students are planning to be, we wish them all well as they plan their next educational steps.

Examination Success

We are delighted that our Key Stage 5 data from last summer is now live on the Performance Tables ([Compare the performance of schools and colleges in England - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/compare-the-performance-of-schools-and-colleges-in-england)). The progress of our students is strong across both academic and vocational qualifications, which is a testament to the hard work of our students and dedicated staff. This data is reflective of what we already know about our Sixth Form - that it is an excellent place to study, learn and thrive.

Revised Key Stage 4 results have also been published, and we are delighted that our students continue to achieve significantly above national levels across all key headline indicators.

Careers



This week has been National Apprenticeship Week. To celebrate this, the school has hosted a range of in-school activities, including an Apprenticeship Careers Café where students discussed potential apprenticeships with employers. Employers included the NHS, JCB, Lhoist, Malmaison and Hotel du Vin. We also welcomed back Buxton and Derby College with their 'Big Red Apprenticeship Bus'.

Year 11 students considering transitioning to an apprenticeship as their next step have attended an excellent 'Find an Apprenticeship' workshop'. All year groups learned about apprenticeship and T Level opportunities during their tutor time and students have also connected their subject learning to apprenticeships during lessons throughout the week.

In Personal Development lessons, Year 9 students have been focussing on their future careers and have covered a variety of topics, including decision making, managing money, and understanding the labour market. All Year 9 students also attended a talk to learn how studying a foreign language may enhance their future career opportunities.

Year 12 students have been updating their profiles on 'Morrisby' to consider their next steps after the Sixth Form, and they are also in the process of securing their work experience placements for July.

Year 13 apprenticeship students considering higher and degree apprenticeships enjoyed a bespoke CV writing workshop and all students in this year group benefitted from visiting speakers from Manchester Metropolitan University and Lancaster University. Students also received visits from former students currently completing apprenticeships at Rolls Royce and the National Grid.

Solar Panels

Following the installation of solar panels across our school site, classrooms are now being powered by 453 panels generating a 200 kilowatt-peak of electricity.

The system will save significant energy costs over its lifetime, which means more resources can be invested directly in our students' education. This will deliver financial sustainability, enhance learning, and promote environmental responsibility.

At a recent launch event, students on the Eco Committee gave a presentation to their peers to explain how the system works. Live data for the school's power generation is now accessible, meaning students will be able to use more advanced measurements to bring renewable energy learning into the classroom.

NEC Exhibition

Our farming group continues to thrive. Numbers have grown over the past year and connections with the local community have strengthened. For a second consecutive year, our students visited the LAMMA Exhibition in Birmingham earlier this term. Students had a great time as they mixed with celebrities from the farming world. 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. Students continue to approach activities with enthusiasm and appear fully appreciative of the extended opportunities available to them.

Thank you also to parents and carers who have shown such a strong interest in this area. We are delighted that work with our farming community is resonating so strongly with so many of you.



Links with S. Anselms

We are continuing to develop strong links with S. Anselms School. I have met with the school's headteacher, Peter Cook, on several occasions over recent months and both schools are keen to develop links to the mutual benefit of our students. We have arranged visits across both sites and have also discussed opportunities relating to the sharing of facilities.



As well as resurrecting sporting fixtures between the two schools, we will also be holding joint workshops in subjects such as art, languages and business. We look forward to creating further links during the rest of the academic year as we envisage a flourishing and positive partnership in future years.

We have maintained our links with the Chatsworth Estate over the academic year. We have planned another day for our farming group and have made enquiries regarding a drama performance in the summer. Additional subject links are also being discussed which will again provide beneficial educational experiences for our students.

Parent Governor Election

I am pleased to inform you that following the recent governor election, Dave Williams was elected to the role of Parent Governor. Congratulations to Dave and we look forward to working with him. Thank you to all candidates who put themselves forward for this role.

Faculty in Focus: Inclusion Faculty Family Support Team



Our school is committed to working closely with families to ensure that children get the help they need as early as possible. Whether dealing with concerns about children's wellbeing, behaviour, attendance, or family circumstances, our Family Support Team can provide practical advice, such as signposting to local services, and direct support. Early help means addressing issues before they become more serious, and we believe that working together with families is vital in supporting each child's happiness and success. If you would like to discuss any concerns, or find out more about the support available, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the relevant Year Leader via email.

'Compass Changing Lives'

'Compass Changing Lives' are a mental health support team who are based at Lady Manners School. The team of Education Mental Health Practitioners are based here to support our whole-school approach to mental health and emotional wellbeing.

The team provides prevention and early intervention support, and offers mental health guidance to children, young people and families within our school and other schools across the local area. A range of evidence-based interventions are provided, including one-to-one work, group work, and support for parents to build knowledge around their child's mental health and wellbeing.

Referrals can be made to the service in several ways. Children and young people can self-refer to our service, and parents, carers and professionals can refer on behalf of a child or family. Alternatively, you can speak to a member of the Inclusion Faculty at any time for advice.

You can also speak to a member of Changing Lives by telephoning the team on 01332-315569. The team can be contacted via email by completing a 'Request for Support' Form [Compass Changing Lives - Compass](https://compassuk.org/compass-changing-lives-compass) and returning it by email to: changinglives@compass-uk.org

The Changing Lives Wellbeing app can also be used to contact team members. Download the app by finding in your App Store. To begin a referral, click 'I Need Support' on the homepage.

Online contact can be made by filling in the 'Request Support for Myself' or 'Request Support for a Child or Young Person as a Parent or Carer' [Compass Changing Lives - Compass](https://compassuk.org/compass-changing-lives-compass)

Key Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 25 February	6.30 pm	GCSE & A Level Recital (Ashford Church)
Friday 27 February	9.00 am	Group Photographs for Years 11 and 13
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
Thursday 16 April	4.00 pm - 7.30 pm	Year 7 Parents' Evening (online)

Students will now be looking forward to a well-deserved half-term break. We look forward to seeing them all again on Monday 23 February 2026.

G Peat, Headteacher

